

A Database Publication

# ATARI USER

Vol. 4 No. 4

August 1988

£1.25

**The Cheat!**

How to give all your  
games infinite lives

Take your Atari  
on a tour of  
the universe

**NEW!**

Double-  
capacity  
disc drive  
revealed

**2 exciting car racing games to type in!**

**FREE**  
 when you subscribe  
 to Atari User



In this delightful game you control RLOB the Biologically Operated Being, navigating him through 500 action-packed screens to rebuild the unstable planet's core.

Bubble Gum Starquake is one of the biggest selling games for home PCs, due to its incredibly addictive gameplay and cleverly animated graphics. It has received

such accolades as Game of the Month in Computer and Video Games, and was awarded a Crash Smash.

What reviewer Rob Cheppell said about the Atari version:

"Starcquake is top notch fun quality whizzing from every byte!"

Don't miss out on this limited-time offer - RM in the computer on Page 52 without delay

Suitable for	Platform	Format	RSP	Special reader offer	RDA S&A	Offer with subscription
Atari 2-5M	Starcquake	Tape	£9.95	£4.95	£5	FREE
Atari 486 minimum		Disk	£12.95	£3.95	£8	FREE

RDA Starquake subscribers can subscribe early to take advantage of this very special opportunity

The first disk  
in line of  
the series

Volume  
1



Vol. 4 May 4 August 1988

**MANAGING EDITOR**  
David Macklin  
**GROUP EDITOR**  
Alan McLaughlin  
**ADVERTISING EDITOR**  
Ken Hughes  
**PRODUCTION EDITOR**  
Peter Glover  
**EDITORIAL ASSISTANT**  
Neil Fawcett  
**ARTS EDITOR**  
Mike Conrady  
**ASSISTANT COORDINATOR**  
Pam Turnbull  
**TECHNICAL EDITOR**  
Julian Wylie  
**ADVERTISING/SALES MANAGER**  
John Snowden  
**ADVERTISING ASSISTANT**  
Andrea Fowler

Tel: 0203 333333 (ext 2222)  
0203 333333 (ext 2222)  
Telex: 333333  
Telex: 333333  
Postal Address: 333333  
Fax: 0203 333333

Published by  
Bentley Publications Ltd  
Bentley House, Addington Park  
Addington, Wokingham, RG20 0AT

ABC 1988, January, June 1988

Subscription rates for  
UK: £10.00 per year

US: \$15.00  
CA: \$20.00 (incl. GST)  
EU: \$25.00 (incl. VAT)  
0203 333333

Atari User, including original listings and articles for publication on diskette, should be typed on computer paper and proofed twice before printing. Program listings should be accompanied by source files in disk. Please include program and software manuals. Software manuals should be included in the diskette. Copyright material for publication in Atari User should be accompanied by a letter from the author. Atari User will not be held responsible for any errors in articles, programs or software manuals.

© 1988 Bentley Publications Ltd. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in whole or in part without written permission. While every effort is made, the publisher cannot be held legally responsible for any errors in articles, programs or software manuals.

Atari User is an independent publication and Atari Corp Ltd and are not responsible for any of the articles, programs or software manuals. Atari User is published by Bentley Publications Ltd. It is published monthly, except for the last issue which is published in January. It is published in the UK and Europe. It is published in the US and Canada. It is published in the rest of the world.

<b>Gallup Chart</b>	<b>4</b>
Our up-to-date report on new software releases for your Atari	
<b>News</b>	<b>5</b>
All the latest from the ever-changing world of the Atari 8 bit	
<b>The Cheat!</b>	<b>8</b>
Ever wanted infinite lives in a game? Our program does it for you	
<b>Sidereal Time</b>	<b>11</b>
Calculate your correct sidereal birth time for use in your horoscope	
<b>Autoload</b>	<b>13</b>
How you can improve the performance of the Atari User Toolkit	
<b>Easy Programming</b>	<b>15</b>
Further help with IDEAL - We simulate the LOCATE command	
<b>Joysticks</b>	<b>18</b>
Choose your weapon! But only after reading our multi-axis test	
<b>Planetarium</b>	<b>23</b>
We evaluate a program to give you a complete home observatory	
<b>Games Reviews</b>	<b>25</b>
On test: Bravadees, Mech Brigade, Tarzan and Road Race	
<b>Map</b>	<b>28</b>
The dangerous levels of Conan the Barbarian revealed in detail	
<b>Hardware</b>	<b>31</b>
An in-depth look at the long-awaited Atari XT-861 OS/DO disc drive	
<b>Roadie</b>	<b>37</b>
A gallery full of help from your friends' resident Atari adventures	
<b>Car Crazy</b>	<b>39</b>
Burn some rubber as you play our fast and furious racing game	
<b>Maniac Movers</b>	<b>43</b>
Life in the fast-lane with this all-action towing ambulance chase	
<b>Hints and Tips</b>	<b>46</b>
Get much more fun out of Conan the Barbarian with readers' help	
<b>Software Solutions</b>	<b>47</b>
Your programming problems solved by our technical wizard	
<b>Mailbag</b>	<b>49</b>
An opportunity to get your news, views, queries and hints in print	

✓Get it right! II

All major listings in this issue are accompanied by checklists to help you overcome typing mistakes. For full details of how they work, see the article on Page 38 of the July issue.

# Gallup Software Chart

THIS MONTH	LAST MONTH	TITLE (Software House)	COMMENTS	PRICE
1		GRAND PRIX SIMULATOR Code Masters	Removed from its number one spot by Zyrax this month (see its chart) to the pole position	2.99
2	•	GREAT AMERICAN ROAD RACE Silverbird	10 drivers meet you in the race crossing the USA. You can reach our number in this issue	1.99
3		ZYBEX Zeppelin	An excellent shoot 'em up worth more than its budget price. Good graphics	2.99
4		MATTA BLATTA Silverbird	The Tailwind Bids its doing well this month with two of their Silverbird budget range in the Top Ten	1.99
5		SPEED ACE Zeppelin	Zeppelin's first release for the Atari. Good use of the split screen in the motorcycle simulation	2.99
6	•	TARIUM Players	Another solid action game, but this time a shoot 'em-up. Nice music. Reviewed this issue	1.99
7	•	DECATHLON Firebird	Refused to be charts, this is good value and enjoy able with multiple games to choose from	1.99
8		COPS 'N' ROBBERS Atlanta	Outrageous content back in a game and on a release! Players but not for long. Poor graphics and sound	1.99
9		SPOOKY CASTLE Atlanta	This one may offend to play and really becomes expensive in quarters. Carry over to the last	1.99
10		REVENGE 2 Mastertronic	Self Monitor is long and led against to Revenge of the Mutant Carnies. As expensive as ever	1.99
11	•	PRO GOLF Atlanta	Another new budget title from Atlanta. An enjoy able shoot around the links. Fairly a sound	1.99
12		RIVER RESCUE Alternative	This is release of an old title has proved very popular. Coming down the charts, but still fun	1.99
13		STEVE DAVIS SNOOKER Blue Ribbon	By released to coincide with the last snooker champion playoffs. Good for its genre and has a dated	1.99
14	•	ROCKFORD Mastertronic	Returns to the shoot 'em up genre — your missing little friend it will worth adding to your collection on	2.99
15	•	AIR WOLF Enigma	Transferred from the TV programme. You fly a jet, paper is it is mission to complete	1.99
16	•	ATARI ACES US Gold	This compilation holds its way back into the charts. Good value and a chance to see some old friends	9.95
17	•	SOCCER Alternative	One of many types of football games around. As the price there can be little said against it	1.99
18	•	FEUD Mastertronic	Action and interesting — battling warriors in colorful surroundings. Action packed	1.99
19	•	HENRY'S HOUSE Mastertronic	It you haven't already got this platform game add it to your collection. Stunning graphics	1.99
20		BMX SIMULATOR Code Masters	Code Masters is rewarded for its simulations with nice graphics and good sound	1.99

# Gleadow's vision of the future

SOUL initiatives that will take Atari UK into the 1990s as an undisputed leader in home computing have been revealed by general manager Bob Gleadow.

His next big company-breathing new life into the 8-bit market and leaving its competitors trailing behind. Gleadow unveiled his vision for the future during a visit to the Atari User office in Arlington, Cheshire.

"The XE console will carry the Atari flame in the 8-bit marketplace. It will be closely followed by the VCS 2600. He said.

"Already the US games market has burst into life

and the UK will not be far behind in this long-awaited revival.

"Nothing could be more pleasing for those of us who work for Atari — everyone here still has their heart in entertaining, which is where it all started."

Gleadow feels a prime reason for games can come back is that "top parents want to buy their kids a tool they can't share

with them — and entertainment is a fundamental aspect of western lifestyle."

The Atari team is currently considering a major project that would shake the world of software retailing.

His plan is to set up a dedicated Atari Games Centre in 50 to 60 of Britain's biggest cities and towns, where games players could go and try out the new releases for themselves.

The centres would mainly be based on existing Atari retail outlets but would be unique in that the customer would have a real chance of what to buy, and Gleadow.

To supply the increased demand for entertainment software that would stem from such a project, Atari is encouraging all software houses to port 57 games to the XE system.

In the meantime more and more major outlets are being persuaded to carry XE games. Among them are Woolco, Comet — and maybe Deans, according to Gleadow.

While he was in Arlington, Gleadow quipped cynicism that Atari is planning to hold its own computer show.

"We were extremely pleased with the obvious success of the spring Atari User Show and are committed to making Database Exhibitions November event an equally impressive statement of Atari's presence in the UK market", he said.



Bob Gleadow. Seen in games centres

## T shirt boost for sales

THE summer sales promotion that leading Atari 8-bit games distributor Microdealer has just launched was being hailed as a success before it even started.

One of its features is a unique range of T-shirts — each bearing a colourful graphic design depicting a specific game or software house.

They carry an rrp of £5.95 and are available from all retailers supplied by Microdealer 0828 242001.

"I can honestly say there are really nothing T-shirts — the kids will love them", said Microdealer sales manager Les Sinclair. "Even before the promotion began we had to order massive extra quantities to meet the demand from enthusiastic retailers."

The promotion also includes free gifts and a draw with computers as the main prize.

All games and peripherals supplied by Microdealer will carry a token for each £5 of value and these can be collected on a special card.

Depending on how many tokens you collect — 18 is the minimum needed to claim a prize — you can win a mouse mat, T-shirt, Chester 125 joystick and files from the Microdealer Top 30.

## ATARI IS RACING AHEAD IN USA

ALL the signs from America are that Atari is on the verge of a new and prosperous era thanks to a games systems revival.

At the summer Consumer Electronics Show in Chicago the impressive Atari stand was built around the 2600, 2800 and XE machines.

Lower priced consoles and software, and an open arms policy towards third party developers — who have responded with growing enthusiasm — have placed Atari firmly in the US computing spotlight.

It has happened within four years of the company having been virtually written off as a computing failure following its disastrous slump in fortunes when the bottom dropped out of the

video games market.

But now everything has changed. A report in *Marketing Week* said "Come back are part of the American way and games software's return to glory is right up there with Las Vegas."

A resurgence in video games sales has justified Atari as the golden child of America's old computer.

The UK computer industry magazine CTR is forecasting "It ought to be an Atari Christmas — it has managed to release 80 new products recently and has more show stands than any other company."

Atari UK spokesman Peter Moller told Atari User: "The reports speak for themselves — we're very confident about the future."

Link your Atari to the outside world with...

# MicroLink

**Electronic mail** - The cheapest and fastest form of communication possible. It costs the same to send a message to the mailbox as to 5000.

**Telex** - Link up with 66 000 telex subscribers in the UK and 1.5 million worldwide. You can even send and receive telexes after office hours or while travelling.

**Telemessages** - Type in your message before 8pm and delivery is guaranteed by first post the next day (except Sundays) anywhere in the UK and USA.

**Telebanking** - Receive bills and transfer funds, stock flight details, available in order from a vast range of products - from loans to floppy discs.

**Telesoftware** - Download directly into your Atari any program from the ever growing library now available on MicroLink - both games and utilities.

**Company telexes** - Obtain facts about any British limited company in seconds and fully analysed financial information on over 120 000 major companies.

**Translation** - Access the biggest and most up-to-date multi-lingual dictionary in the world, with over 600 000 words.

**News** - Use the powerful search commands to pinpoint vital business information from the world's leading news services, newspapers and periodicals.

**Radiotelex** - If you also have a portable radiotelex you'll be alerted with time an urgent message arrives in your mailbox so you're always in touch.

**Gateway** - Get through to New York in just five seconds - or any one of the 100 computers in Luxembourg which links you to 600 databases throughout Europe.

When you join MicroLink you've got the world of communications at your fingertips - 24 hours a day. You'll have immediate access to ALL the facilities offered by Telecom Gold ... and a great deal more besides.



## Two recommended packages

**If you need an 8080 interface**  
Data Highways - initial modem  
+ cable £175.15 PLUS Mini  
Office II £16.95  
Total price: £192.10

**If you don't have an interface**  
Modem 80280/820 1023 modem  
+ DataLink interface + cable +  
DataLink software  
Total price: £149.95

While either combination you can  
also log on to other databases  
and bulletin boards all round the  
world.

All you need - apart from your Atari - is a modem, which plugs into your telephone wall socket, plus suitable communications software.

We have provided two possible options on the left.

Whichever equipment you use you will be able to call MicroLink, open your mailbox, send to disc any messages waiting for you, and dis-  
connect in as little as two minutes.



More than  
90 per cent  
of subscribers  
can connect to  
the MicroLink  
computer at  
local call  
rates.

**NO MORE CASH**  
Put in the system and  
send it to the address  
below. You will receive  
100 pounds of currency  
and with regularity with  
an additional 100.  
Complete the card  
and send it to the  
address below. You will  
receive 100 pounds of  
currency and with regularity  
with an additional 100.

Please send the full details about MicroLink, its price and information about the following packages and software below (please fill in):

☐ Data package ☐ Modem package

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone no: \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: MicroLink, Service Group, Adlington Park,  
Adlington, Manchester M15 9 9P

AT&T

## Birthday competition winners

AT&T marked the third birth day of Atari User in an event which we celebrated with Alan and Typewerk in a birthday competition with over 50 prizes.

The response was astounding, but the first correct answer out of the sack was from J. Clarke from Yardley Wood. He will soon be receiving an Atari XE Games System - 48500, console, light gun, joystick which comes with three games.

Running prize - copies of Tandy's superb Winter Olympiad III - were won by: S. Mawer, Watley; M. Rodgers, Edinburgh; D. Middlewood, Wuxford; S. Gregory, Hellingworth; D. Parker, Milfield; A. Dillon, Preston; M. Johnson, Bristol; D. Goldstone, Huxton; R. Redford, Clitham; P. Gooding, Lowestoft; A. Chikara, Warrington; S. Armstrong, Worsfold-on-Sea; G. Dickinson, Rosendale; S. May, St. Austell and E. Thorne.

Third prize copies of Mike Potts go to: A. Gutter, York; P. Melal, Basley Heath; S. Samfield, Tipton; P. Gorman, Knowle; K. Parrell, Swadincote; G. Gilchrist, Kings Norton; E. Muldowney, Gifford; S. Green, Harrogate; J. Bennett, Underwood; P. Fox, Broadstairs; M. Harris, Shaggy; D. Hardy, Sarncliffe; S. Jeffery, Leigh-on-Sea; P. Fisher, Mordenhead and S. Rensyth, Woking.

A further 10 prizes - copies of Phoenix - are on their way to: S. Arnold, Ebbw Vale; G. Syson, Harwood; R. Hall, Craggates; J. Firth, Middlesbrough; C. Smith, Welling; J. Bailey, Carlisle; P. Stencou, Kidlington; S. Wood-Underdon, M. King, Dingsford; J. Willis, Heywood Heath; C. Smalley, Rly; M. James, Farnham; T. Wynn, Plymouth; M. Harrison, London and M. Mellis, Tingley.



## Focus on the VCS 2600

AT&T User will be ready for the massive boost to the entertainment scene that will be created by the reinvigorated VCS 2600.

The September issue will contain a comprehensive guide to the games system which took the computer industry by storm when it was originally introduced - and which has now sold

over 15 million units worldwide. And there will be a regular section in future issues devoted purely to new games coming out for the VCS 2600.

But first of all, Atari User reviewers will be running the rule over the best of the existing games that have helped sell more than 155

million cart cartridges to date. With Atari founding father Nolan Bushnell now writing for the magazine, and leading UK supplier Poltek Electronics promising no less than 50 new titles, the VCS 2600 looks set for a stunning return to the forefront of computer gaming.

And it will all be reflected in the pages of Atari User.

## Swedes scuttle pirates

BRITISH software critics have welcomed a crack down on games piracy in two Scandinavian countries as "a step in the right direction".

But in Europe, particularly in the Mediterranean countries piracy of entertainment media software remains rampant.

Several cases have recently been brought before the courts in Sweden and Denmark where an estimated 50 per cent of all games bought are pirated.

The prosecutions have been inspired by BUS, the Union of Software Distributors and Retailers active in Scandinavian countries. It has been suing flouting cases of piracy and putting pressure on governments to enforce the copyright laws.

Swedish computer magi-

cine editor Christian Malmgren says "Piracy is being driven underground - people are starting to be scared".

He estimates that Scandinavian sales of legitimate games - mostly imported from the US and UK - could increase fivefold if the pirates are forced to curtail their activities.

The UK anti piracy organisation, the Federation Against Software Theft (FAST) and the news from Scandinavia was most "heartening".

Bob Hay, FAST's co-ordinator of anti piracy enforcement, told Atari User "the widely welcome Scandinavian initiative and are in touch with BUS, offering whatever help we can".

However, entertainment

software piracy remains particularly a southern European problem - with Spain, Italy, Portugal and Greece the main culprits.

"The situation is particularly worrying in Greece - the only EC member country that doesn't even recognise copyright laws as a form of protection for computer software".

Anne Cleary, report sales manager for Marsden Software - a major UK supplier of games to continental markets - said "The Scandinavians have taken a step in the right direction, but the problem is so widespread in Europe it almost defies description".

"We had Italian retailers tell me they won't even stock entertainment software any more because piracy is so rife in that country".









**AFTER** reading the letter from John Upton in the October 1987 issue of *Amateur User* asking for information about astrology programs for the 8-bit Atari, and knowing from better experience how rare they are, I decided to write this program to calculate a necessary figure called the sidereal time.

We all have a birth time, but this is given as solar time, and is based on the Earth's rotation around the Sun.

However, the Sun is moving as well, so the stars and the zodiac appear to move a small distance westward each year.

The duration of the Earth's rotation with respect to the stars is about 2 minutes 48 seconds shorter every day. To attempt to standardize everything, astrologers use sidereal time, which is based on the movements of the planets relative to Earth.

When calculating a horoscope, values known as Ephemeris are used. These are compiled by the Astronomer Royal and are based on sidereal time. So, if you want to produce a horoscope for yourself you have to change your birth time to sidereal time — not an easy task.

Many calculations are used to find the sidereal time and only rarely to various tables is required. However, this program only requires to know four things to work it out for you:

- Date of birth
- Time of birth
- Longitude of birth place in degrees
- Direction of birth place — east or west

The first thing you have to decide is whether your birth date falls inside British summer time (BST) — or double British summer time (DBST) during the years 1941 to 1947. Lines 100 to 320 sort this out.

This is achieved by subtracting your birth date to the number of days in that year — for example, February 7 1968 will become 38 days (31 for January + 7 for February).

The program then uses a REAP command on line 100 to find the two numbers for the year of birth and checks to see if the figure falls between them. For example, for 1968 the two numbers are 48 and 368 (February 10 to December 31). Our figure for the 7th — 38 — doesn't fall between them so BST doesn't apply.

This figure is then subtracted from the birth time — this routine between lines 330 to 390 does all this for you.

Next you have to find an Ephemeris

— the sidereal time for example on January 1 — on the year of your birth. This is always 20 hours and several minutes.

### The final calculations

The same minutes are found by lines 400 to 430. By referring back to our Ephemeris we would now have to add figures for the month (lines 430 to 520) and the day (lines 520 to 610).

Now we have to either add or subtract an allowance of four minutes for each degree of longitude East or West — lines 620 to 700 accomplish this.

Finally you have to convert the minutes to hours. If this is over 24 hours you have to subtract 24 to give the sidereal time.

The program will calculate the BST for the years 1930 to 1977 only. Additional data may be added if required by converting the final date of BST and the last date of BST to the total days of the relevant year. For 1929 the dates were April 25 (1111 days) and October 6 (1710 days).

If these figures were entered at the beginning of the date statement in line 280 the entire program would extend from 1929 to 1977.

However, remember to add one to your figure if it is a leap year, and if your date is after February 29.

# The stars tell

Calculate your  
astrological birth time  
for use in horoscopes.  
**DAVE BALL** shows  
you how

Any alterations to the date after midnight will require a suitable alteration to line 90 — which stops the program accepting a date if normal daylight ends — and line 180 where Q is the year of the start of the date. I have deliberately not limited the read statements in lines 180, 400, 430 and 580 to keep them within the amount of data so that the program can be extended to other people's requirements with the minimum of alterations.

### Open for expansion

In lines 480 to 490 the program contains the data for sidereal times from 1900 to the year 2000. So there is no need to alter or extend this if you enter the BST date.

The program leaves itself open for expansion, but it does do its job well and is accurate to plus or minus 30 seconds.

It is beyond the scope of this article to explain how to draw up a birth chart using the sidereal time, but your local library will have books on the subject concerning all the help you will need.



# Autoload your Toolkit...

**MICK RANDLE** presents  
a utility to enhance the  
capabilities of the  
Atari User utility



**THERE** was a utility program called Load n' Run in the June 1988 issue of Atari User. It provided a quick and easy way to Autolan a Basic program from a Disc II's disk via a machine-wide AUTOLAN SYS file.

Doc only allowed the Autolan file to be read, but this can sometimes cause problems. Although it is possible to sometimes test or more such files, it's very much a hit or miss affair and isn't recommended.

So where does that leave the owner of the Atari User Toolkit which is in itself an Autolan file? Wouldn't it be nice to be able to load Disc II's, install a remote load Toolkit and run a Basic menu program all on power up?

Well, it can be done. A program as user-friendly as Toolkit wouldn't leave out such a useful feature. The access key code is built into the program and all that is required is a key number in the right place to make the Autolan routine. This is where our short program comes in.

Type it to load our Get n' Right II to check your work. All lines from 2080 onwards were highlighted as part of the Load n' Run program last month. If you typed it in you can now yourself save your work by listing those particular lines to disc by typing LIST TO C: 20800 32800.

Then type MCN and enter "D C" to transfer them back into memory and begin typing in this program. You can then save a copy of the complete program on disc before running it.

You will be prompted to insert a Toolkit workload into drive A: and press Return when ready.

Don't try to alter the Toolkit master disc — only use a Toolkit while disc. Some error checking is built into the program but it is best not to tempt fate.

The program will then open an IOCS

channel to update the Toolkit file, use the PCN1 statement to position the file pointer to the correct position and write the key number to make Toolkit Autolan a program.

Every time you boot the disc it returns this customized version of Toolkit and print a friendly menu message while it is loading and running the first Basic program it finds on the disc. The only stipulation is that the disc program's filename must contain the SAS extension.

The Load n' Run program from the June issue offers a greater scope for creative introduction screens, where

as Toolkit offers a basic menu facility. Both approaches have their merits, so you have not wasted your time if you entered Load n' Run!

Finally, a note of caution. Feel free to adapt the program for your own use, but remember that messing about with disc files using MOTE and PCN1 can be potentially dangerous. It's very easy to scramble a file, or even to write data that makes it incompatible for Doc to read it.

If you wish to experiment, do so on backup copies only. If you don't, and keep valuable programs, don't blame me or Alan Chan!

```

1 1000 *****
2 1010 1. TOOLKIT GETN' RIGHT II
3 1020 2. 01 0000 0000 0
4 1030 3. 02 0100 0000 0
5 1040 4. 03 0100 0000 0
6 1050 *****
7 20 1000 010 000000 0 000 0000000
8 20000 0,0,0 000000 0,0,0 0000 000,0
9 20 1000 01,0,0 0000 0000,000
10 20 1000
11 20 1000 0000 00000 00000000000
12 20 1000
13 100 10000 0,0,0 0 *****
14 100 10000 *****
15 100 10000 0 0 0 *****
16 100 10000 *****
17 100 10000 0 0 0 *****
18 100 10000 *****
19 100 10000 *****
20 100 10000 *****
21 100 10000 *****
22 100 10000 *****
23 100 10000 *****
24 100 10000 *****
25 100 10000 *****
26 100 10000 *****
27 100 10000 *****
28 100 10000 *****
29 100 10000 *****
30 100 10000 *****
31 100 10000 *****
32 100 10000 *****
33 100 10000 *****
34 100 10000 *****
35 100 10000 *****
36 100 10000 *****
37 100 10000 *****
38 100 10000 *****
39 100 10000 *****
40 100 10000 *****
41 100 10000 *****
42 100 10000 *****
43 100 10000 *****
44 100 10000 *****
45 100 10000 *****
46 100 10000 *****
47 100 10000 *****
48 100 10000 *****
49 100 10000 *****
50 100 10000 *****
51 100 10000 *****
52 100 10000 *****
53 100 10000 *****
54 100 10000 *****
55 100 10000 *****
56 100 10000 *****
57 100 10000 *****
58 100 10000 *****
59 100 10000 *****
60 100 10000 *****
61 100 10000 *****
62 100 10000 *****
63 100 10000 *****
64 100 10000 *****
65 100 10000 *****
66 100 10000 *****
67 100 10000 *****
68 100 10000 *****
69 100 10000 *****
70 100 10000 *****
71 100 10000 *****
72 100 10000 *****
73 100 10000 *****
74 100 10000 *****
75 100 10000 *****
76 100 10000 *****
77 100 10000 *****
78 100 10000 *****
79 100 10000 *****
80 100 10000 *****
81 100 10000 *****
82 100 10000 *****
83 100 10000 *****
84 100 10000 *****
85 100 10000 *****
86 100 10000 *****
87 100 10000 *****
88 100 10000 *****
89 100 10000 *****
90 100 10000 *****
91 100 10000 *****
92 100 10000 *****
93 100 10000 *****
94 100 10000 *****
95 100 10000 *****
96 100 10000 *****
97 100 10000 *****
98 100 10000 *****
99 100 10000 *****
100 100 10000 *****

```

Turn to Page 54 to

Country	Year	Population (millions)	Urban population (millions)	Urban population (%)
Algeria	1990	10.0	4.0	40.0
Algeria	2000	11.0	5.0	45.5
Algeria	2010	12.0	6.0	50.0
Algeria	2020	13.0	7.0	53.8
Algeria	2030	14.0	8.0	57.1
Algeria	2040	15.0	9.0	60.0
Algeria	2050	16.0	10.0	62.5
Algeria	2060	17.0	11.0	64.7
Algeria	2070	18.0	12.0	66.7
Algeria	2080	19.0	13.0	68.4
Algeria	2090	20.0	14.0	70.0
Algeria	2100	21.0	15.0	71.4
Algeria	2110	22.0	16.0	72.7
Algeria	2120	23.0	17.0	73.9
Algeria	2130	24.0	18.0	75.0
Algeria	2140	25.0	19.0	76.0
Algeria	2150	26.0	20.0	76.9
Algeria	2160	27.0	21.0	77.8
Algeria	2170	28.0	22.0	78.6
Algeria	2180	29.0	23.0	79.3
Algeria	2190	30.0	24.0	80.0
Algeria	2200	31.0	25.0	80.6
Algeria	2210	32.0	26.0	81.3
Algeria	2220	33.0	27.0	81.8
Algeria	2230	34.0	28.0	82.4
Algeria	2240	35.0	29.0	82.9
Algeria	2250	36.0	30.0	83.3
Algeria	2260	37.0	31.0	83.8
Algeria	2270	38.0	32.0	84.2
Algeria	2280	39.0	33.0	84.6
Algeria	2290	40.0	34.0	85.0
Algeria	2300	41.0	35.0	85.4
Algeria	2310	42.0	36.0	85.7
Algeria	2320	43.0	37.0	86.0
Algeria	2330	44.0	38.0	86.4
Algeria	2340	45.0	39.0	86.7
Algeria	2350	46.0	40.0	87.0
Algeria	2360	47.0	41.0	87.2
Algeria	2370	48.0	42.0	87.5
Algeria	2380	49.0	43.0	87.8
Algeria	2390	50.0	44.0	88.0
Algeria	2400	51.0	45.0	88.2
Algeria	2410	52.0	46.0	88.5
Algeria	2420	53.0	47.0	88.7
Algeria	2430	54.0	48.0	88.9
Algeria	2440	55.0	49.0	89.1
Algeria	2450	56.0	50.0	89.3
Algeria	2460	57.0	51.0	89.5
Algeria	2470	58.0	52.0	89.7
Algeria	2480	59.0	53.0	89.8
Algeria	2490	60.0	54.0	90.0
Algeria	2500	61.0	55.0	90.2
Algeria	2510	62.0	56.0	90.3
Algeria	2520	63.0	57.0	90.5
Algeria	2530	64.0	58.0	90.6
Algeria	2540	65.0	59.0	90.8
Algeria	2550	66.0	60.0	90.9
Algeria	2560	67.0	61.0	91.0
Algeria	2570	68.0	62.0	91.2
Algeria	2580	69.0	63.0	91.3
Algeria	2590	70.0	64.0	91.4
Algeria	2600	71.0	65.0	91.6
Algeria	2610	72.0	66.0	91.7
Algeria	2620	73.0	67.0	91.9
Algeria	2630	74.0	68.0	92.0
Algeria	2640	75.0	69.0	92.1
Algeria	2650	76.0	70.0	92.1
Algeria	2660	77.0	71.0	92.2
Algeria	2670	78.0	72.0	92.3
Algeria	2680	79.0	73.0	92.4
Algeria	2690	80.0	74.0	92.5
Algeria	2700	81.0	75.0	92.6

# Locate that faulty heart...

**LEN GOLDING** continues his look at Atari Basic with another peek at the LOCATE command

**MOST** of the keyboard characters you need for drawing dangerous plans, terrain maps and other works of art are locked away in the lower case character set and getting at them is a bit difficult.

It's easy enough to flip between upper and lower case sets while you're in one of the two text modes. Use **POKE 768,226** to select the lower case set and **POKE 768,225** to return to upper case. But there's a snag. Try this:

```
10 PRINT "I"
20 FOR I=10,20
```

What happens? The screen fills up with orange hearts. This could be the end of a beautiful friendship.

Actually, your computer is not to blame — it's simply following instructions to clear the screen by printing a space at every position. Unfortunately, when the lower-case set is selected, the space character turns into a heart.

There are two ways round this. The first is to make the hearts invisible by turning them to the same colour as the background — **GETCOLOR 255,0** will do the trick. The hearts are still there, but now you can't see them and any other orange characters will disappear too. However, all the yellow, blue and violet characters — including hearts — remain visible.

The second method is to modify the character set, replacing the heart with a blank space. Program 1 will perform the necessary coding surgery for you. It uses machine code, so just treat it as a block data routine which can easily be incorporated into your own Basic programs.

Line 40 is there simply for illustration — it lets you type numbers from 0 to 255 and prints the corresponding character on screen. It also keeps the communication channel open by preventing the program from ending. In a real program of course, line 40 should be deleted.

After running Program 1 your charac-

```
5 REM Program 1: Getting rid of the heart character
10 FOR I=0 TO 255:PRINT I:POKE 129,0:GOTO 2
20 REM 2: Get (ASCII) address of I
30 POKE 768,226:PRINT I:POKE 768,225
40 POKE 768,226:PRINT I:POKE 768,225:GOTO 2
50 REM 3: Get (ASCII) address of I
60 POKE 768,226:PRINT I:POKE 768,225:GOTO 2
70 REM 4: Get (ASCII) address of I
80 POKE 768,226:PRINT I:POKE 768,225:GOTO 2
90 REM 5: Get (ASCII) address of I
100 POKE 768,226:PRINT I:POKE 768,225:GOTO 2
110 REM 6: Get (ASCII) address of I
120 POKE 768,226:PRINT I:POKE 768,225:GOTO 2
130 REM 7: Get (ASCII) address of I
140 POKE 768,226:PRINT I:POKE 768,225:GOTO 2
150 REM 8: Get (ASCII) address of I
160 POKE 768,226:PRINT I:POKE 768,225:GOTO 2
170 REM 9: Get (ASCII) address of I
180 POKE 768,226:PRINT I:POKE 768,225:GOTO 2
190 REM 10: Get (ASCII) address of I
200 POKE 768,226:PRINT I:POKE 768,225:GOTO 2
210 REM 11: Get (ASCII) address of I
220 POKE 768,226:PRINT I:POKE 768,225:GOTO 2
230 REM 12: Get (ASCII) address of I
240 POKE 768,226:PRINT I:POKE 768,225:GOTO 2
250 REM 13: Get (ASCII) address of I
260 POKE 768,226:PRINT I:POKE 768,225:GOTO 2
270 REM 14: Get (ASCII) address of I
280 POKE 768,226:PRINT I:POKE 768,225:GOTO 2
290 REM 15: Get (ASCII) address of I
300 POKE 768,226:PRINT I:POKE 768,225:GOTO 2
310 REM 16: Get (ASCII) address of I
320 POKE 768,226:PRINT I:POKE 768,225:GOTO 2
330 REM 17: Get (ASCII) address of I
340 POKE 768,226:PRINT I:POKE 768,225:GOTO 2
350 REM 18: Get (ASCII) address of I
360 POKE 768,226:PRINT I:POKE 768,225:GOTO 2
370 REM 19: Get (ASCII) address of I
380 POKE 768,226:PRINT I:POKE 768,225:GOTO 2
390 REM 20: Get (ASCII) address of I
400 POKE 768,226:PRINT I:POKE 768,225:GOTO 2
410 REM 21: Get (ASCII) address of I
420 POKE 768,226:PRINT I:POKE 768,225:GOTO 2
430 REM 22: Get (ASCII) address of I
440 POKE 768,226:PRINT I:POKE 768,225:GOTO 2
450 REM 23: Get (ASCII) address of I
460 POKE 768,226:PRINT I:POKE 768,225:GOTO 2
470 REM 24: Get (ASCII) address of I
480 POKE 768,226:PRINT I:POKE 768,225:GOTO 2
490 REM 25: Get (ASCII) address of I
500 POKE 768,226:PRINT I:POKE 768,225:GOTO 2
510 REM 26: Get (ASCII) address of I
520 POKE 768,226:PRINT I:POKE 768,225:GOTO 2
530 REM 27: Get (ASCII) address of I
540 POKE 768,226:PRINT I:POKE 768,225:GOTO 2
550 REM 28: Get (ASCII) address of I
560 POKE 768,226:PRINT I:POKE 768,225:GOTO 2
570 REM 29: Get (ASCII) address of I
580 POKE 768,226:PRINT I:POKE 768,225:GOTO 2
590 REM 30: Get (ASCII) address of I
600 POKE 768,226:PRINT I:POKE 768,225:GOTO 2
610 REM 31: Get (ASCII) address of I
620 POKE 768,226:PRINT I:POKE 768,225:GOTO 2
630 REM 32: Get (ASCII) address of I
640 POKE 768,226:PRINT I:POKE 768,225:GOTO 2
650 REM 33: Get (ASCII) address of I
660 POKE 768,226:PRINT I:POKE 768,225:GOTO 2
670 REM 34: Get (ASCII) address of I
680 POKE 768,226:PRINT I:POKE 768,225:GOTO 2
690 REM 35: Get (ASCII) address of I
700 POKE 768,226:PRINT I:POKE 768,225:GOTO 2
710 REM 36: Get (ASCII) address of I
720 POKE 768,226:PRINT I:POKE 768,225:GOTO 2
730 REM 37: Get (ASCII) address of I
740 POKE 768,226:PRINT I:POKE 768,225:GOTO 2
750 REM 38: Get (ASCII) address of I
760 POKE 768,226:PRINT I:POKE 768,225:GOTO 2
770 REM 39: Get (ASCII) address of I
780 POKE 768,226:PRINT I:POKE 768,225:GOTO 2
790 REM 40: Get (ASCII) address of I
800 POKE 768,226:PRINT I:POKE 768,225:GOTO 2
810 REM 41: Get (ASCII) address of I
820 POKE 768,226:PRINT I:POKE 768,225:GOTO 2
830 REM 42: Get (ASCII) address of I
840 POKE 768,226:PRINT I:POKE 768,225:GOTO 2
850 REM 43: Get (ASCII) address of I
860 POKE 768,226:PRINT I:POKE 768,225:GOTO 2
870 REM 44: Get (ASCII) address of I
880 POKE 768,226:PRINT I:POKE 768,225:GOTO 2
890 REM 45: Get (ASCII) address of I
900 POKE 768,226:PRINT I:POKE 768,225:GOTO 2
910 REM 46: Get (ASCII) address of I
920 POKE 768,226:PRINT I:POKE 768,225:GOTO 2
930 REM 47: Get (ASCII) address of I
940 POKE 768,226:PRINT I:POKE 768,225:GOTO 2
950 REM 48: Get (ASCII) address of I
960 POKE 768,226:PRINT I:POKE 768,225:GOTO 2
970 REM 49: Get (ASCII) address of I
980 POKE 768,226:PRINT I:POKE 768,225:GOTO 2
990 REM 50: Get (ASCII) address of I
1000 POKE 768,226:PRINT I:POKE 768,225:GOTO 2
```

Program 1: Getting rid of the heart character

ter set will be completely heartless, but every other letter will be available in any of the four colours. You can flip between upper and lower case character sets at any time — use **POKE 768,226** to select upper case characters, or repeat the **LOCATE** call at line 40 to recall the now lower case set. This can produce some interesting effects on screen.

Now back to **LOCATE**, what you will certainly need for any Basic escape games.

As you might have guessed, when the computer uses Graphic modes 1, 2, 12 or 13, the **LOCATE** command returns the lettercolour code, not just an ASCII number. See Table 1 for more.

For example:

```
10 LOCATE 5,4
```

will move in G the lettercolour code for the character which is currently residing at screen co-ordinates 5,4. If it is a yellow I symbol — a torpido, maybe! Q will take the value of 46. If you're using lower case letters and the character at 5,4 is a blue diamond, then Q will contain 100.

You should have no great difficulty converting our previous joystick control routines for use with Graphic Modes 1 or 2. However, there are

Turn to Page 28

## 4 From Page 18

```

1 000 Program 7: 2-dimensional search
2 over a background
3
4 000000 1 000 0000 10 10 100 000
5 0000 10 10 0000 10 0000 0000 000 00
6 00 10 000 0000 000
7 00 000000 0000 10 0000 0000 1
8 00 0000 0000 0000 10
9 00 00000000 10 0000 0000 10
10 00000000 00 00 00 0000 000 0000
11 0000 0000 10 00 00 0000 000 1000
12 00
13 00 00000000 00 00 00 0000 000 0000
14 0000 0000 00 00 00 0000 000 0000
15 00
16 0000 0 000 1,1
17 00 0000 00,0,0 0000 00,000 00,00
18 0000 0000 0000 00

```

Program 6: 4-directional movement over a background

other ways of programming joystick-controlled movement.

Program 8 shows one of the shortest possible routines, using a system known as Boolean logic. Lines 40 and 50 perform all the joystick reading, boundary checking and position updating functions, in a fraction of the space required by conventional BASIC.

We'll explain Boolean techniques in detail at a later date. For now, just treat this routine as a useful building block, without worrying about how it

works. The seven boundaries — MAXX, MINX, MAXY, MINY — are set at line 70, and will need changing if you want to use a different graphics mode.

The moving character's initial position depends upon the values of X and Y again at line 80. This routine is a little slower than our previous ones, but the reduction in program length and complexity is well worth a small sacrifice in speed.

To round things off, Program 10 shows all the new techniques in action. It provides the framework for a game based on the specifications we suggested previously. You can be joysticked to fly an aircraft around the screen, dropping invisible bombs on enemy players.

Although it's very simple and hasn't much play value as it stands, the program illustrates many of the techniques found in real arcade games. It also reveals colour and movement with exceptional ease, revealing the target from the screen. The number of movements is limited and the program has a built-in scoring system. If nothing else, it will serve as a useful example when you come to write your own games.

■ Next month we'll show you how to produce a different playfield every time, using random numbers — and how to make your targets move back

```

1 000 Program 7: Simple search-and-destroy
2 over a background
3
4 000000 1 000 0000 10 10 100 000
5 0000 10 10 0000 10 0000 0000 000 00
6 00 10 000 0000 000
7 00 000000 0000 10 0000 0000 1
8 00 0000 0000 0000 10
9 00 00000000 10 0000 0000 10
10 00000000 00 00 00 0000 000 0000
11 0000 0000 10 00 00 0000 000 1000
12 00
13 00 00000000 00 00 00 0000 000 0000
14 0000 0000 00 00 00 0000 000 0000
15 00
16 0000 0 000 1,1
17 00 0000 00,0,0 0000 00,000 00,00
18 0000 0000 0000 00
19
20 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
21 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
22 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
23 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
24 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
25 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
26 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
27 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
28 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
29 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
30 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
31 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
32 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
33 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
34 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
35 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
36 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
37 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
38 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
39 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
40 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
41 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
42 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
43 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
44 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
45 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
46 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
47 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
48 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
49 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
50 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
51 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
52 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
53 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
54 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
55 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
56 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
57 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
58 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
59 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
60 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
61 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
62 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
63 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
64 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
65 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
66 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
67 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
68 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
69 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
70 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
71 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
72 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
73 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
74 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
75 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
76 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
77 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
78 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
79 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
80 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
81 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
82 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
83 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
84 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
85 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
86 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
87 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
88 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
89 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
90 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
91 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
92 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
93 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
94 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
95 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
96 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
97 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
98 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
99 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
100 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000

```

Program 10: Simple search and destroy game



[illegible]

## IAN SHARPE tests out the latest joysticks

**THESE** is a bewildering array of joy sticks on the market, and often you don't get a chance to test your choice before parting with your money. To help you decide, we've been putting a collection of falling machines through their paces.

It would be impossible to test every joystick available, so we picked a representative sample. I don't know if we were particularly lucky with our selection, but whether standards have improved a lot recently, but none of the sticks could be described as really bad.

The first thing to emerge was that joysticks are a very personal thing. We all agreed that some were good, but there were others that one person liked but another didn't. So to get a broad approach, four testers took part: all computers are a consensus, and ratings have been averaged.

Table 1 gives our order of preference regardless of price. The order is based on personal choice after extensive play testing. This is a highly subjective assessment, so in an attempt to be a bit more scientific we devised some programs to put a figure on aspects of performance. The first two measured how many times we could press the fire button or wiggle the stick in 10 seconds. The third test measured how precisely we could control a moving cursor to trace the path of a wavy line.

### Test results

Surprisingly, the test results didn't bear much relation to personal preference. We think this is due to the fact that the sticks which performed better had greater potential than is required in most games. Also, when playing, a lot depends on weight and feel, though how you quantify that we don't know.

Another possible reason is that when performing it that the testers are so concentrated on the task, whereas in a game you concentrate on the action and your joystick control becomes less self-conscious.

Some sticks come in two versions, with and without buttons. All are operated by either a fire switch or microswitch. There is another type of switch based on joysticks, the sort that looks like a metal bubble. These are quite common at one time, but they are not very popular and none of the sticks had this type fitted.

The last variety is a piece of spring steel pushed against a contact, while



either switches are a proper self-contained joystick unit. In general, micro switches are most expensive, last longer, and give better feel.

Long term durability is hard to test. Common sense says that a steel shafted microswitch joystick should last longer than an all-plates feel switch one, but in our experience, unless you give a stick rough treatment that only shows up after a very

long period of use, by which time advances in design might make you want to upgrade anyway.

Of course your final choice would be modified by how much money you want to spend, whether you prefer a home built or off-the-shelf model, and your liking for the ball-on-a-stick type, or those with a moulded grip.

### How Data

1

Regular styling and gear lever type sticks designed for racing. A rubber bush around the shaft provides just the right amount of resistance and springiness. Precision is very good, and the overall feel is very smooth.

# Choose your



# our weapon



## Konix Speedking

1

This is purely a hand-held device which has been carefully designed to fit your hand. The buttons are big, short travel and very precise. You are forced by the shape to hold the base in your left hand and move the stick with your right. It's a pity a left-handed version isn't available.

The only other quibble is that for

some people the base unit is a little on the large side, and the uncustomized position of the fire button might make your hand ache slightly at first. However after a couple of days you'll find your grip strengthening, and the Speedking then becomes a very efficient tool indeed.

We were very surprised it didn't do better in the speed and precision tests because we got some impressive scores with it.

## Competition Pro Extra

1

We didn't have to take this one apart to look at the construction because it's got a very nice through case. It is very like the *European Professional* except for a rubber bung round the stick to give better response.

The one complaint with the *Atari* model was that if pushed hard against the stop, the stick squeaks against the

switch springs. Perhaps the switches here I mounted with total rigidity, but having used this stick for several months it hasn't given any reliability problems.

## European Professional

4

At first this one seems unremarkable, but we all started to score respectable scores with it. Perhaps it's the ball

made of a good design that you don't have to pay much attention to the stick when you'll use it. Of all the models on test, this one felt the most robust, though we can't say if the impression would be borne out after a lot of use.

## Cheetah Mech 1+

1

It's hard to define quite why this one feels right. Fundamentally the design is the same as many other sticks, but unlike many when happens on the sticks, instead what you are doing with your hand. We were never left doubting why the stick went one way when we meant it to go another. An excellent weapon.

## Cruiser

1

Apart from not being coloured black and red, *Cruiser* is plain to form, is an adjustable stick allowing three different settings. Like the *Competition Pro*, we found it had a nice firm gripe feel and managed some good scores with it. It needs to be fixed to a surface for best results and doesn't make any concessions to hand holding.

## European Elite

7

The unusual shape forced some hands well while others found it not to their taste. In play the little feels quite good and we do find one looking about in the office for the past year. It is good, regularly and has stood up to some heavy punishment.

## Cheetah Special

1

Something of a contradiction, this one *Cheetah* calls it as a break through in joystick technology. As well as the normal direction and fire controls, the stick can rotate slightly inside its own main grip of switches which respond to the rotation. For this to work you need a two joystick adapter to take the second plug.

You also need a game that is specially written to take advantage of the feature (we don't know of any) or at least has definable legs. Unless this idea catches on in a big way we can't see software houses writing games to

Turn to Page 59 for

## 4 From Page 18

that these aren't playable without this type of stick.

The contradiction is that for a joystick being billed as a breakthrough there isn't a microswitch in sight. In all other respects it feels like Chevrolet's 125+—so you've got to decide whether the listed features outweigh the other worst average performance.

### Chevrolet 125+

A typical last-second joystick with working auxiliary switches for firing or taking. The action is not bad, but put alongside some of the microswitch models it seems a bit limp. If we hadn't tried it alongside other sticks, the 125+ would have made none of us impressed. As far as control went, we were no worse off with this one, and given that it's cheaper than all the rest, it probably the best value for money.

### Phoenix One

On the face of it the pistol style is a good idea, and holding it in your hand before pulling a pistol feels good. However, after 10 minutes in action we found that the fire button is not well placed for repeated use and we all got sore hands. Presumably your hand might strengthen sufficiently to compensate, but this still leaves another problem. We found that the narrowness of the grip made it easy for the stick to twist slightly in the hand, and it was difficult to judge exactly which direction we were pulling the stick. This often led to the on-screen movement being not what we expected.

### Terminator

Shaped like a hand grenade, the fire button on a metal strip bearing an A button sits in the center. The stick is a relatively thin metal rod. After the initial novelty over its appearance had died down, one person really liked it while the other three gave it the thumbs down. Overall it doesn't feel as good as most conventional sticks, and it's not easy to play well while taking into account the price. This is the only one of the bunch we'd still easily avoid.

## TEST RESULTS

	Stick speed	Stick spread	Position	Price	Accuracy	Stick type	Switch type
Game Spending	120	40	40	£11.00	A	Steel	M
Chevrolet Stick 1+	130	40	37	£14.00	F	Steel	M+L
Star Delta	140	40	34	£9.99	F	Steel	M
Competition Pro Extra	150	40	40	£19.40	F	Steel	M
Comet	160	40	40	£5.99	A	Steel	M
Electronic Professional	160	40	40	£19.30	A	Steel	M
Euromax Elite	140	47	41	£10.40	A	Steel	M
Chevrolet 125 Special	140	41	40	£12.99	F	Plastic	L
Phoenix One	130	42	39	£9.99	F	Plastic	L
Phoenix Terminator	120	40	40	£12.99	A	Steel	M
	120	47	40	£14.99	A	Steel	M

Notes: F = flexible in order of preference

ST = Standard L = Last Switch

## CONTACTS

### Game Spending

Game Computer Products, Units 12-14, Silchester Industrial Estate, Twickenham, Surrey TW20 4DZ. Tel: 0932 356401.

### Chevrolet 125+, 125 Special, Stick 1+

Chevrolet Marketing, Norfolk House, Norfolk St, Portsmouth, Dorset PO6 3AS. Tel: 0703 140426.

### Star Delta

Star Electronic Products, Units 61-63, Redford Industrial Park, Redford Close, Church Crookham, Hampshire GU10 0PL. Tel: 0852 500901-2.

### Competition Pro Extra

Optima Marketing Co., Room 20, Can St, Rye, East Sussex TN32 4JZ. Tel: 0432 836 1222.

### Comet

Imperial (Preston) Ltd, 2, Rush, Rushing, Ave, Trading Estate, Northampton NN4 6JL. Tel: 0260 600001.

### Euromax Elite and Professional

Euromax Electronics, Pelford Lane, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire NN16 8AB. Tel: 0453 600001.

### Phoenix One

Phoenix Software, Unit M18, Canalside, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire NN16 8JG. Tel: 0260 491192.

### Terminator

Endless, Unit 4, Interspace Business Complex, 20, John St, Interspace, Middlesbrough TS6 8PL. Tel: 01 651 4493.

## CONCLUSION

Twickenham and Phoenix One couldn't be dismissed out of hand because they might suit some people, but do make sure you spend 10 minutes with them before stubbing your penny back in the bank.

The Chevrolet 125+ is well worth considering if money is tight. It has a very light action and can easily match the feel of microswitch models, but it's cheap, has a working auto-lock and is entirely competent.

Whether it's worth paying extra for the Special which has much the same feel is open to question. For the same price you could have one of the micro-switch models. Euromax Elite

and Professional, and Lumin are good (though) rivals of it, and you won't be happy with any others. On the whole, the Competition Pro Extra is a mixed bag, but doesn't match it, and you might be as offensively The Star Delta 140 that has better grips.

Not to forget Chevrolet Stick 1+ and Game Spending were top of the heap. The choice is down to your preferred type and how important auxiliary is to you.

Such is the difference in personal opinion over joysticks we think it is vital that you try your choice before parting with any money.



# This Toolkit is a MUST!

**ATARI  
USER**  
exclusive!

Programming becomes so much easier when you've got the right tools for the job. With this Atari User package, you can add TEN new commands to Atari Basic to dramatically improve your performance. PLUS your Atari will generate meaningful error messages instead of cryptic numbers.

Toolkit automatically boots in from cassette or disc and makes use of a normally unused area of memory.

This package of stunning utilities — specially commissioned by Atari User — is an absolute must. It comes complete with comprehensive on-screen instructions telling you how to get the most from each of the programs.

## TOOLKIT COMMANDS

### CLCK

Turns any switches among keyboard, stick or joystick.

### DEL

Removes a single or block of unwanted Atari User quickly.

### REN

Instantly renames your Atari programs in any hard disk or cassette.

### DOS

Displays a directory of any drive without having to enter DOS.

### DEC

Converts numbers between decimal, hexadecimal and binary.

### GRI

Calculates and presents the useful Atari User checksums instantly.

### LNAR

Gives the name of all used variables and a list of all their occurrences.

### CHANGE

Alters the name of a variable at every occurrence in a program.

### STRIP

Removes all REMs and reduces the size of the program.

### LISTING

Prints and includes the Atari special characters on an Epson printer.

**£5.95 tape**  
**£7.95 disc**

**TO ORDER PLEASE USE THE FORM ON PAGE 53**

# And boldly go where no man...

Take a trip around the milky way with **NEIL FANCETT** as he evaluates an astronomy program for your 8 bit Atari

THE Atari Planetarium is an educational package designed to bring the wonders of the cosmos into your own front room — or at least your computer room.

For £29.99 you get one 5.25in disc and a comprehensive 116 page instruction manual. After booting up the disc — remember to hold down Start while switching on and remove all cartridges from older machines — you will be thrust into the main viewing screen.

Stare at it for a few minutes and when you fail to understand what it all means, this might be a good time to read the manual.

The first section details what the program can do — which is display the 16 constellations of more than 1,300 stars, 80 constellations, more than 300 deep sky objects and Halley's Comet during its 1986-88 appearance.

A special Help function will identify any displayed object for you on a status line which scrolls along the bottom of the screen.

The ability to accelerate time allows you to view cosmic events in minutes rather than hundreds of years. You can also view the position of star fields 18,000 years in the past or future. And if you have a printer you can make a permanent record of any screen display you desire.

The switch on loading the main program is very well written and makes it impossible for you to go wrong. When loaded, the program defaults to Washington D.C. on January 1, 1985. But since it may not be New Year's Day and you don't



Now on Page 24 p.



You can go on a guided tour of the Universe



A view of the Earth in map mode

## 4 From Page 23

happen to live in Washington you'll want to change the default settings.

Because the program has to do very precise calculations about objects you must enter the latitude and longitude of your present location - found via the Planetarium's built-in map of the earth. Just move the cursor to where you think you live and press Return.

Then you enter the correct time and date of the day you wish to view. Again, this simple task is well explained in the manual.

Now the program has all the info

vent user information. It will calculate the positions of the sun, moon, planets and stars.

Four screen modes are valid - Sky, Map, Set and Chart - accessed by highlighting the one you want in the data window to the right of the screen.

Once you have become accustomed to the commands and viewing modes you can move on to a guided tour of the universe. It starts off with a history of how ancient civilisations based religions on the stars and goes on to explain Earth's orbit around the Sun, celestial and ecliptic spheres and many other astronomical subjects.

The program can simulate just

about any cosmic event you would want to watch. If you wish to see how the stars looked when Cleopatra viewed an almost total eclipse on June 21,430 BC just key in the date and location and up it comes.

There is also a section dealing with the art of navigating using the Sun and stars, which was developed by ancient mariners.

Plot data are easy and Planetarium works with the Atari XIMMON printer or any figure-compatible.

It was here I found the only error in the manual. It states that you have to press Control-P for an Equire and Shift-P for the XIMMON. Don't, it's the opposite way round!

Dumps usually take around five minutes to complete and come out around A4 size.

The back of the manual houses numerous tables, future astronomical events, mathematical equations and plenty of notes for the world to experiment with. Did you know that there are 5,435,737,795,000 km in one light year? (Baffled, did I?)

The Alan Planetarium is easy to use and user-friendly. An excellent manual, plenty of on-screen prompts and a multitude of examples make traversing the universe very simple.

Given though £29.95 seems a hefty price tag it isn't. Programs written for the 387 at the same technical level retail for nearly £40. So, if you buy one for your Amii 3 it's your best deal.



Dumps usually take about five minutes to complete

**Product:** The Alan Planetarium  
**Price:** £29.95 (hard)  
**Distributor:** Alan Watts, 13 Farnell Street, Manchester M4 6JL  
**Tel:** 061-225-4561



## Fight old battles again

[illegible]



### Burning rubber

**Product:** American Road Race  
**Price:** £2.99 (tape)  
**Developer:** Atari World of Games  
**Distributor:** Atari Games  
**Ref:** 087-537-4367

OVER the last few months several classic games have been re-released as budget titles. Now from Pinball comes American Road Race. Normally an Adventure full-price slot game which I believe was originally called The Great American Great Country Road Race.

You drive a very fast sports car across North America in one of four races - which you select when the game loads.

On offer are Los Angeles to New York, Seattle to Miami, San Francisco to Washington or the US tour. In the latter you race through every city marked on the map.

Once the route has been selected the map screen will appear and you have to check road and weather conditions and set your time of departure.

Watch out for police

speed traps, night driving, bad weather, collisions with other drivers and a host of other obstacles placed in your path. My major problem was over revving the engine and blowing it up.

The joystick controls take a little getting used to. By pressing the fire button and moving the joystick several variations on movement and changing gear come into play.

You must also make sure you refuel your car at regular intervals. Gas pumps appear every 100 miles and if you have to do a stop next to one, well...

If you run out of fuel don't worry too much. A gas pump will appear sooner than the normal 100 miles.

The gameplay is all right but I wouldn't class it as one of the most addictive games I have ever played. The car's movement reminded me of a game I bought several years ago called *Beja Ruggers* - which was quite good (but not brilliant).

Sound effects are not stimulating but again I can't really praise them because a car engine can only really sound like a car engine. The



game car's horn has a conspicuous 8-bit effect and on my narrow strip quickly.

The feature I liked the most appeared with the credits. A car zooms on from the left of the screen creating a massive dust cloud which clears to reveal another set of credits.

As a budget game, Road Race offers excellent value

for money if you are keen to learn computers and don't already own a number of racing games.

**Pete Williams**

Sound	4
Graphics	5
Playability	5
Value for money	5
Overall	5



in One (AtariWorld) ©1987, Atari

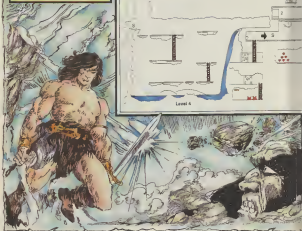


speed up (AtariWorld) ©1987, Atari

# CONAN THE BARBARIAN

By Bryan Stevens

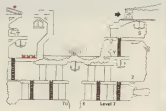
See also Hints and Tips on Page 45  
for further information and solution





**Key**

- Start of level
- Jewel
- Holder
- Direction of movement
- Transporter
- Key to door



# Mini Office II



**6** powerful home and business programs in just **ONE** package – at a price that simply can't be matched!

*Voted  
Business Program of  
the Year – 1985 AND 1986  
by Computer World*  
**This package is  
incredible value**  
*(for \$19.95)*

## WORD PROCESSOR

Compose a letter, set the print-out options using embedded commands or menus, use the mail merge facility to produce personalised notices – and more!

## SPREADSHEET

Prepare budgets or tables, total columns or rows with ease, copy formulas absolutely or relatively, use a wide selection of mathematical and scientific functions, recalculate automatically – and more!

## GRAPHICS

Enter data directly or load data from the spreadsheet, produce pie charts, display bar charts side by side or stacked, overlay line graphs – and more!

## DATABASE

Build up a versatile card index, use the flexible print-out routines, do powerful multi-field sorting, perform all arithmetic functions, link with the word processor – and more!

## COMMS MODULE

Using a modem you can access services such as MicroLink and order a wide range of goods from flowers to software, send electronic mail, telex and tele-message in a flash – and more!

## LABEL PRINTER

Design the layout of a label with the easy-to-use editor, select label size and sheet format, read in database files, print out in any quantity – and more!

## ORDER FORM

Please send me Mini Office II for the price shown below (VAT is required on all orders for £19.95)

Transfer charges made payable to  
DataLink Software, or debit my  
Access/Visa card

NAME

Exp. date

Signed

Name

Address

**ORDER ROUTINE:**  
**TEL: 0625 876600**

14-16 Ed. Road, London W14 9JF  
MicroLink Software Ltd. 025

**DATABASE SOFTWARE**

Europe House, Addington Park,  
Addington, Wokingham RG20 0AP



# Driven to madness...

**ANDRÉ WILLEY** takes a look at the long-awaited XF-551 disc drive

FOR some time now it has been almost impossible to beg, borrow or steal — let alone buy — a disc drive of any sort to plug into an 8-bit Atari micro. This has left many new XL system owners wondering whether they made the right decision in buying Atari.

Fortunately this is about to change with the arrival of the new XF-551 floppy disc drive from Atari. The very fact that it is available at all bodes well for the survival of a thriving 8-bit market, but it's even more exciting when you take a closer look at the specifications.

Outwardly the XF-551 is a sleek grey unit, similar in size to an old 1050 drive, but matching perfectly the colouring and styling of the XL system. As always there is yet another external power supply to clutter up your desk, but that's a problem users normally learn to live with.

Inside the casing is a very much more powerful engine than the old faithful 1050s we have come to know and love. Not only is the new drive capable of operating in true double density — the 1050 mode previously available only with a US Doubler chip installed — but there is also a completely new format available. Double-sided double density. This new mode automatically gives 1024 on each side of a floppy, a grand total

of 2048 on each 5 1/4-in disc.

Of course there's always a catch — and in this case it's that good old Dos 2.5 wasn't designed to be able to access more than 128K of data, so you'll have to switch to a new Dos to get the most from the drive. Despite this, XF-551s have been shipping in the States for some time now, paired with Dos 2.5 and a very comprehensive and Dos 2.5/1050 instruction manual.

This gives a step-by-step guide to using Dos 2.5 and is packed with sample programs — which is rather ironic as we have been waiting two years for such a manual and so soon as it becomes available it is obsolete.

Atari US has decided to hold shipment of the drives until its brand new Dos XL is complete, and it is this which has been holding up delivery for so long. I was lucky enough to obtain a sleek, preview copy of Dos XL and while it performs as well as, additionally, I do have a few reservations about its ease of use.

In order to pack everything in, Dos XL uses a bank-switching technique to store large parts of its code underneath the operating system in ram — which unfortunately means that it won't work with old 400 or 800 word.

The advantage is that once it's loaded, you won't need to reinsert the Dos master disc because everything you'll need is already waiting in

memory. When you load up Dos XL without files you are greeted with three menu options: File Access, Machine language editor or System function.

If you have come from Basic — or some other language cartridge — you will appear in Goto to files or Goto to Cartridge option on this screen. Pressing Escape at any time will return you to the top level menu, which is quite handy.

Each of the three sub-menus may be accessed by pressing the highlighted first letter and hitting Return, although why the much more elegant single-key entry mode was not employed completely baffles me. Each menu covers a specific area of code and a requirements, basically to avoid cluttering up a single screen with too much information.

All three menus allow you to get a list of the files on a disc, plus the option of sorting or changing the current working directory. This also is necessary because Dos XL is capable of using sub-directories — or folders as they are known on the AT — to help you use your 380K of disc space more efficiently. There are single entries on a file listing, but may contain many more files or even other sub-directories. For example, the way of

Turn to Page 37





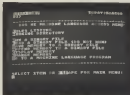


Figure 1: Workbench language screen dump

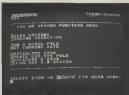


Figure 2: System operation screen

harder it would have been nice to have a power light as well as a busy light, but otherwise I've no complaints other than a slightly excessive price tag.

As far as Doc-RE goes, however, my own preference is still for ICD's excellent and far superior SpartaDos.

already quite capable of working in all four densities. Its support of Doc 2.0 disks is automatic – just put one into the drive and SpartaDos will recognise and handle it accordingly.

Also I much prefer using a command processor to Doc-RE's rather peculiar batch-processing

menu system – but of course SpartaDos does have a very powerful menu too, so the choice is always there if you happen to prefer that.

Let's hope that the final release of Doc-RE might clear up some of these minor problems and leave us with a new standard for file storage to go with an excellent new drive. Good luck, Mr. White, in these considering moving up from cassette is to go out and buy an XT-581 or Docu – but you might find that you prefer to use it with SpartaDos.

Density	Total Bytes	XP-581 time	1050 time
Single density	32,768	38.6	30.3
Enhanced density	32,768	38.6	31.3
Double sided	65,536	48.8	n/a

256 sectors of data transfer (read or write)

Disk density	Doc 2.0 XP-581	SpartaDos XP-581	Doc-RE XP-581	Doc-RE 1050
Single	27.3	26.7	27.1	24.6
Enhanced density	27.4	26.8	27.2	26.6
Double density	n/a	28.3	27.6	26.1
Double sided	n/a	48.8	50.3	n/a

Format times (seconds)

Density of boot disk	Doc 2.0 XP-581 (10500E)	SpartaDos XP-581	Doc-RE XP-581	Doc-RE 1050
Single/enhanced	16.6	17.9	26.3	27.6
Double/double sided	n/a	18.3	23.3	23.0

Boot up times (seconds)

Drive type/Density	Doc 2.0	SpartaDos	Doc-RE
1050 Single density	32.6	22.6	74.9 *
XP-581 Single density	19.2	20.4	73.6 *
XP-581 Double density	n/a	13.3	48.4 *
XP-581 Double sided	n/a	13.3	42.6 *

Drive strings: Open file, write 25,000 bytes, close file

Drive type/Density	Doc 2.0	SpartaDos	Doc-RE
1050 Single density	30.3	20.6	21.0
XP-581 Single density	18.6	18.9	19.3
XP-581 Double density	n/a	19.2	18.2
XP-581 Double sided	n/a	19.2	16.4

Drive strings: Open file, read 25,000 bytes, close file

**Notes:** The beta test version of Doc-RE which I tested doesn't seem to bank switch correctly, and because of this its results entirely in normal ram. This gives it a free memory of only 13,000 bytes from basic (as opposed to 33,274 bytes with Doc 2.0 and 32,600 bytes with SpartaDos). No doubt this will be corrected for the final release.

Also there was no indication of how to switch off the Doc-RE disk write mode, so any operations which include a sector write from Doc-RE (marked with an asterisk) will show up as being far slower than normal. This again should be cured on the final release, but take a look at the direct sector access times for a better indication of the true drive speed.

**To make sure the Atari 520 STFM  
only plays games that are worthy of it.**



(After activation on 6/94)

**Only the Atari Summer Pack gives you the world's best home computer plus the world's best games. Twenty-two software titles that most people would give their right arms for, are yours absolutely free.**



we're giving you  
£400 worth free.

There's no catch. You really do get a £20 STEM and £414 worth of great games for just £399.99. But only until September 1st. What are you waiting for?

**ATARI**  
SUMMER PACK



## Problem the size of a planet...

THEY came again to free last month's captured Gern — they do things on so if they don't get fed seven times a day on the dot — just inside the trusty breadboard and battle-scarred shield, turn up the work on the old brass lamp and get down to relaxing with news of your recent conquests.

Jon Wood is having problems with Highmire's Guide to the Galaxy. He notes it as his favorite adventure in his personal top ten although as he hasn't got very far. I wonder if he will still hold to that view when he's finished. I guess he will since HMGD gets better and better and in my opinion also is one of the best adventures ever.

Having spent ages working out how to get past the bull-dozer without being hit on the head by a lamp, Jon reached the pit. Then after drinking three pints of beer he arrived at the point where the Vagon stops come to destroy the planet. Ford dropped a stone at his feet but having passed

by  
Rouloc



the green button — the correct action — Jon is sure stranded in the dark room and can't see, hear, or feel anything and won't know what to do with — or because Gern has been destroyed.

what is going on in the room?

Well, Jon's a lot of adventures have been caught by this one. What you

### HINTS AND TIPS

#### Ultima IV

- To get a ship into Lurel take sail into a wharf.
- The Stone of Compromise lies at the end of a passage in Soleris.
- The Stone of Spirituality is in the Ancient Treasures Chamber on Soleris Castle under a chest. To

- locate the chamber, pass at a gem. When you have found the side of the pliers, walk straight into the wall which will then give way.
- The Gem Spell requires salt, pearl and roundstone.
- The secret entrance to Hythlod is at the back of Soleris Castle.
- You will need the bellows to get the white stone on top of the Desert's Spirit ridge.
- The eighth member of the party is a shepherdess called Ranna living in Magrove. When standing outside the town, do not cross the bridge but go south to find her.

#### Quest of Thrones

- Go to the last house to get rid of the spider.

- Use the stick-in-a-finger to open the wrongguy.

- To get the gem from the sea, hold the mirror in the beam and reflect it on to the sea. Then catch the gem as it falls.
  - To use the crucifix, put the eye, arm, heart, jarrete and oster in it and open the socket.
  - To get down the ribs about, slip in the sword to find the boots. Then enter them and make sure you're not a lamp.
  - How do you get the honey from the beehive? It's impossible.
  - To deal with the spider, open the gem jar in the stable to attract some flies.
- Close the jar and later throw jam at the spider.

#### List of Missives

Alchemy — AMM  
Compassion — WY  
Survival — CAN  
Justice — WYH  
Reality — LUM  
Water — RA  
Spirituality — CM  
Power — SC/SM

# Adventuring

## 4 From Page 37

should do when you first reach the dark room is read the description very carefully. Type **WAIT** a few times and you will notice a subtle difference in the text—suddenly one of your actions is not mentioned.

So in this particular instance, try typing **SMELL THE GARD** after the text has changed. The same principle applies whenever you again find yourself in this dark room as you surely will—just watch for changes in text.

Christopher Ward of Newthorpe

Notes: *secondary if Infocom has finished with the 5-bit Atom as no new adventures from that company have appeared for a while. Well, this effort does begin to look a bit that way, Christopher—none of the latest Infocom adventures have been converted for the Atom 5-bit format, as far as I know, if they have, Infocom is keeping awfully quiet about it.*

But oh it is not gloom and doom—three rousing cheers for *Bandard*, which has picked up the mantle and has not forgotten *van Adam*, when *Bandard* has followed up the excellent *Guild of Thieves* with the

even *Farmer Jemima*, one of the best you'll find on your machine. It's out on disc now. Make sure you don't miss it or you'll look regretful!

My thanks to C.H. Seymour of Userpool and G.H. Stenford of Peri Taittel who have supplied much help with *Ultima*. Well done! *Thrilling adventures*.

I shall put your guidance to good use, starting with this issue. In other type, I hope the tips on *Guild of Thieves* let many of you who have requested them make further progress with this superb adventure.

Until next month, have fun



## JON WARD'S RAVES

- 1 High Water - Guide to the Galaxy
- 2 Sentimental
- 3 The Pig Off
- 4 Jinxer
- 5 Lurking Horror
- 6 Red Moon
- 7 The Pines
- 8 Woods in Paradise
- 9 Lords of Time
- 10 Guild of Thieves

ATARI  
USER

MAIL ORDER OFFERS

ATARI  
USER

MAIL ORDER OFFERS

EXCLUSIVE OFFER

**Power to  
your fingertips!**

Atari have developed an exciting range of credit card size calculators and databanks—and we've negotiated two exclusive offers for readers of *Atari User*.

The **CCDB (Credit Card Databank)** is a five-function calculator with an eight-character display showing a picture after every three digits. It's also powered only 1.5v AAA (alkaline) and comes with a protective wallet.

The **DB1000 (Data Bank)** stores 100 sets of data each with seven eight numeric characters and 10 numbers. There's a fast search facility, a second display protected by a user defined password and an eight digit calculator. Memory included.



FREE  
WITH  
SUBSCRIPTION

SAVE  
UP TO  
**£7!**

Product	RRP	Special offer to Atari User	CCDB £6.95	DB1000 with subscriptions
Atari Credit Card	£5.95	£4.95	£7	FREE
Atari Data Bank	£19.95	£18.95	£5	£12.95

**Turn to page 53 to take advantage of this superb offer**







[illegible][illegible][illegible]





## Game

11, 111, 113, 117, 119, 121  
123, 125, 127, 129, 131, 133, 135, 137, 139, 141, 143, 145, 147, 149, 151, 153, 155, 157, 159, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 173, 175, 177, 179, 181, 183, 185, 187, 189, 191, 193, 195, 197, 199, 201, 203, 205, 207, 209, 211, 213, 215, 217, 219, 221, 223, 225, 227, 229, 231, 233, 235, 237, 239, 241, 243, 245, 247, 249, 251, 253, 255, 257, 259, 261, 263, 265, 267, 269, 271, 273, 275, 277, 279, 281, 283, 285, 287, 289, 291, 293, 295, 297, 299, 301, 303, 305, 307, 309, 311, 313, 315, 317, 319, 321, 323, 325, 327, 329, 331, 333, 335, 337, 339, 341, 343, 345, 347, 349, 351, 353, 355, 357, 359, 361, 363, 365, 367, 369, 371, 373, 375, 377, 379, 381, 383, 385, 387, 389, 391, 393, 395, 397, 399, 401, 403, 405, 407, 409, 411, 413, 415, 417, 419, 421, 423, 425, 427, 429, 431, 433, 435, 437, 439, 441, 443, 445, 447, 449, 451, 453, 455, 457, 459, 461, 463, 465, 467, 469, 471, 473, 475, 477, 479, 481, 483, 485, 487, 489, 491, 493, 495, 497, 499, 501, 503, 505, 507, 509, 511, 513, 515, 517, 519, 521, 523, 525, 527, 529, 531, 533, 535, 537, 539, 541, 543, 545, 547, 549, 551, 553, 555, 557, 559, 561, 563, 565, 567, 569, 571, 573, 575, 577, 579, 581, 583, 585, 587, 589, 591, 593, 595, 597, 599, 601, 603, 605, 607, 609, 611, 613, 615, 617, 619, 621, 623, 625, 627, 629, 631, 633, 635, 637, 639, 641, 643, 645, 647, 649, 651, 653, 655, 657, 659, 661, 663, 665, 667, 669, 671, 673, 675, 677, 679, 681, 683, 685, 687, 689, 691, 693, 695, 697, 699, 701, 703, 705, 707, 709, 711, 713, 715, 717, 719, 721, 723, 725, 727, 729, 731, 733, 735, 737, 739, 741, 743, 745, 747, 749, 751, 753, 755, 757, 759, 761, 763, 765, 767, 769, 771, 773, 775, 777, 779, 781, 783, 785, 787, 789, 791, 793, 795, 797, 799, 801, 803, 805, 807, 809, 811, 813, 815, 817, 819, 821, 823, 825, 827, 829, 831, 833, 835, 837, 839, 841, 843, 845, 847, 849, 851, 853, 855, 857, 859, 861, 863, 865, 867, 869, 871, 873, 875, 877, 879, 881, 883, 885, 887, 889, 891, 893, 895, 897, 899, 901, 903, 905, 907, 909, 911, 913, 915, 917, 919, 921, 923, 925, 927, 929, 931, 933, 935, 937, 939, 941, 943, 945, 947, 949, 951, 953, 955, 957, 959, 961, 963, 965, 967, 969, 971, 973, 975, 977, 979, 981, 983, 985, 987, 989, 991, 993, 995, 997, 999, 1001, 1003, 1005, 1007, 1009, 1011, 1013, 1015, 1017, 1019, 1021, 1023, 1025, 1027, 1029, 1031, 1033, 1035, 1037, 1039, 1041, 1043, 1045, 1047, 1049, 1051, 1053, 1055, 1057, 1059, 1061, 1063, 1065, 1067, 1069, 1071, 1073, 1075, 1077, 1079, 1081, 1083, 1085, 1087, 1089, 1091, 1093, 1095, 1097, 1099, 1101, 1103, 1105, 1107, 1109, 1111, 1113, 1115, 1117, 1119, 1121, 1123, 1125, 1127, 1129, 1131, 1133, 1135, 1137, 1139, 1141, 1143, 1145, 1147, 1149, 1151, 1153, 1155, 1157, 1159, 1161, 1163, 1165, 1167, 1169, 1171, 1173, 1175, 1177, 1179, 1181, 1183, 1185, 1187, 1189, 1191, 1193, 1195, 1197, 1199, 1201, 1203, 1205, 1207, 1209, 1211, 1213, 1215, 1217, 1219, 1221, 1223, 1225, 1227, 1229, 1231, 1233, 1235, 1237, 1239, 1241, 1243, 1245, 1247, 1249, 1251, 1253, 1255, 1257, 1259, 1261, 1263, 1265, 1267, 1269, 1271, 1273, 1275, 1277, 1279, 1281, 1283, 1285, 1287, 1289, 1291, 1293, 1295, 1297, 1299, 1301, 1303, 1305, 1307, 1309, 1311, 1313, 1315, 1317, 1319, 1321, 1323, 1325, 1327, 1329, 1331, 1333, 1335, 1337, 1339, 1341, 1343, 1345, 1347, 1349, 1351, 1353, 1355, 1357, 1359, 1361, 1363, 1365, 1367, 1369, 1371, 1373, 1375, 1377, 1379, 1381, 1383, 1385, 1387, 1389, 1391, 1393, 1395, 1397, 1399, 1401, 1403, 1405, 1407, 1409, 1411, 1413, 1415, 1417, 1419, 1421, 1423, 1425, 1427, 1429, 1431, 1433, 1435, 1437, 1439, 1441, 1443, 1445, 1447, 1449, 1451, 1453, 1455, 1457, 1459, 1461, 1463, 1465, 1467, 1469, 1471, 1473, 1475, 1477, 1479, 1481, 1483, 1485, 1487, 1489, 1491, 1493, 1495, 1497, 1499, 1501, 1503, 1505, 1507, 1509, 1511, 1513, 1515, 1517, 1519, 1521, 1523, 1525, 1527, 1529, 1531, 1533, 1535, 1537, 1539, 1541, 1543, 1545, 1547, 1549, 1551, 1553, 1555, 1557, 1559, 1561, 1563, 1565, 1567, 1569, 1571, 1573, 1575, 1577, 1579, 1581, 1583, 1585, 1587, 1589, 1591, 1593, 1595, 1597, 1599, 1601, 1603, 1605, 1607, 1609, 1611, 1613, 1615, 1617, 1619, 1621, 1623

[illegible]

790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000, 1001, 1002, 1003, 1004, 1005, 1006, 1007, 1008, 1009, 1010, 1011, 1012, 1013, 1014, 1015, 1016, 1017, 1018, 1019, 1020, 1021, 1022, 1023, 1024, 1025, 1026, 1027, 1028, 1029, 1030, 1031, 1032, 1033, 1034, 1035, 1036, 1037, 1038, 1039, 1040, 1041, 1042, 1043, 1044, 1045, 1046, 1047, 1048, 1049, 1050, 1051, 1052, 1053, 1054, 1055, 1056, 1057, 1058, 1059, 1060, 1061, 1062, 1063, 1064, 1065, 1066, 1067, 1068, 1069, 1070, 1071, 1072, 1073, 1074, 1075, 1076, 1077, 1078, 1079, 1080, 1081, 1082, 1083, 1084, 1085, 1086, 1087, 1088, 1089, 1090, 1091, 1092, 1093, 1094, 1095, 1096, 1097, 1098, 1099, 1100, 1101, 1102, 1103, 1104, 1105, 1106, 1107, 1108, 1109, 1110, 1111, 1112, 1113, 1114, 1115, 1116, 1117, 1118, 1119, 1120, 1121, 1122, 1123, 1124, 1125, 1126, 1127, 1128, 1129, 1130, 1131, 1132, 1133, 1134, 1135, 1136, 1137, 1138, 1139, 1140, 1141, 1142, 1143, 1144, 1145, 1146, 1147, 1148, 1149, 1150, 1151, 1152, 1153, 1154, 1155, 1156, 1157, 1158, 1159, 1160, 1161, 1162, 1163, 1164, 1165, 1166, 1167, 1168, 1169, 1170, 1171, 1172, 1173, 1174, 1175, 1176, 1177, 1178, 1179, 1180, 1181, 1182, 1183, 1184, 1185, 1186, 1187, 1188, 1189, 1190, 1191, 1192, 1193, 1194, 1195, 1196, 1197, 1198, 1199, 1200, 1201, 1202, 1203, 1204, 1205, 1206, 1207, 1208, 1209, 1210, 1211, 1212, 1213, 1214, 1215, 1216, 1217, 1218, 1219, 1220, 1221, 1222, 1223, 1224, 1225, 1226, 1227, 1228, 1229, 1230, 1231, 1232, 1233, 1234, 1235, 1236, 1237, 1238, 1239, 1240, 1241, 1242, 1243, 1244, 1245, 1246, 1247, 1248, 1249, 1250, 1251, 1252, 1253, 1254, 1255, 1256, 1257, 1258, 1259, 1260, 1261, 1262, 1263, 1264, 1265, 1266, 1267, 1268, 1269, 1270, 1271, 1272, 1273, 1274, 1275, 1276, 1277, 1278, 1279, 1280, 1281, 1282, 1283, 1284, 1285, 1286, 1287, 1288, 1289, 1290, 1291, 1292, 1293, 1294, 1295, 1296, 1297, 1298, 1299, 1300, 1301, 1302, 1303, 1304, 1305, 1306, 1307, 1308, 1309, 1310, 1311, 1312, 1313, 1314, 1315, 1316, 1317, 1318, 1319, 1320, 1321, 1322, 1323, 1324, 1325, 1326, 1327, 1328, 1329, 1330, 1331, 1332, 1333, 1334, 1335, 1336, 1337, 1338, 1339, 1340, 1341, 1342, 1343, 1344, 1345, 1346, 1347, 1348, 1349, 1350, 1351, 1352, 1353, 1354, 1355, 1356, 1357, 1358, 1359, 1360, 1361, 1362, 1363, 1364, 1365, 1366, 1367, 1368, 1369, 1370, 1371, 1372, 1373, 1374, 1375, 1376, 1377, 1378, 1379, 1380, 1381, 1382, 1383, 1384, 1385, 1386, 1387, 1388, 1389, 1390, 1391, 1392, 1393, 1394, 1395, 1396, 1397, 1398, 1399, 1400, 1401, 1402, 1403, 1404, 1405, 1406, 1407, 1408, 1409, 1410, 1411, 1412, 1413, 1414, 1415, 1416, 1417, 1418, 1419, 1420, 1421, 1422, 1423, 1424, 1425, 1426, 1427, 1428, 1429, 1430, 1431, 1432, 1433, 1434, 1435, 1436, 1437, 1438, 1439, 1440, 1441, 1442, 1443, 1444, 1445, 1446, 1447, 1448, 1449, 1450, 1451, 1452, 1453, 1454, 1455, 1456, 1457, 1458, 1459, 1460, 1461, 1462, 1463, 1464, 1465, 1466, 1467, 1468, 1469, 1470, 1471, 1472, 1473, 1474, 1475, 1476, 1477, 1478, 1479, 1480, 1481, 1482, 1483, 1484, 1485, 1486, 1487, 1488, 1489, 1490, 1491, 1492, 1493, 1494, 1495, 1496, 1497, 1498, 1499, 1500, 1501, 1502, 1503, 1504, 1505, 1506,

[illegible]

## Conquer the Darkworld

Q&A experts this month show the intricate levels to this wonderful graphical adventure from Demomark. The game features excellent graphics and sound effects. But above all it has that all important factor needed to make a game — tremendous playability.

Because a map can't tell much on its own we are also offering some help on how to kill Volts and his evil minions.

■ **Level One:** Very simple to complete in 10 mins. Just kill the scorpions that attack you and make your way to the top.

■ **Level Two:** A bit of jewel perfect jumping is needed on this level. Jump from the castle (platform) to the main to the ground. Collect the key from the niche in the wall and jump over the river.

Climb up the ladder, go through the door on to the next ladder and go down the next ladder to the branch marked A. Stand with your back to the tree, take one step and jump to the other tree.

Any slight mistake and you will end up on the spike pit. When you have passed this, go through the locked door and into the cave.

■ **Level Three:** Go down the ladder and avoiding the scorpions, use the transporter to get to the jewel. Take

care, for the scorpions can be fired period as well. When you have the jewel go back through the transporters — avoiding the scorpions again — and place it in the holder.

A large bubble will appear. Jump into it and when it is near the top of the cave jump out. You will tumble down the hole and end up on level four.

■ **Level Four:** Here's your chance to collect more jewels and gems. Every now and then they will appear in random patterns around the cave. Take the gems — one at a time — to the gem holder. When you have done this twice you are allowed to take the key.

If you wait around and collect another gem it will save you a bit of time on the next level. Collect as many jewels as you can — you'll need them.

■ **Level Five:** The ice gems at the bottom of the screen will always kill dragons when they disappear. If you stand in front of the first transporter don't you can shoot the dragons just as they enter the magical one.

Once you have killed them all place the gems in the holder. This turns off the electricity so you can get the key.

■ **Level Six:** On this level the sphere in the middle of the screen produces little charges of static which can kill you. If you stand at the edge of the platform marked X they won't touch you.

When the eyeball comes along shoot it and the ladder at the end of the platform grows. Keep shooting the eye until the ladder touches the lower platform. Climb up it and shoot the chandelier. It will fall on the sphere and destroy all the static. Turn off the electricity and allow you to go to the next level.

■ **Level Seven:** Climb down the ladder and stand with your back to the wall at position Y. Volts will send a lightning ball after you. When it reaches the top

# Your HINTS & TIPS

We welcome letters from readers giving their help with games on the Atari that they would like to pass on to other readers. The address to write to is:

Hints and Tips  
Atari User  
Europe House  
Addington Park  
Addington  
Wokingham RG20 4NP

of the ladder throw a sword and sword hit the ball on its way down, turning it into a jewel. You need three pieces to free the holder — which is never used then done.

The beauty thing at Z gets you back to position Y. When you have collected three jewels your vision will pick up Volts and drop him in the volcano. It will then return for you and drop you at the exit. — Bryan Stevens, Addons House



# ATARI USER Classifieds

Has upgrading your computer given you hardware you no longer need? Or have changing interests left you with unwanted software? Then THIS is the place to advertise your surplus items. Atari User readers are always on the lookout for a bargain and this is the first place they look!

**An added bonus!**

**An added bonus!**  
Your ad will also be automatically displayed on Macworld, the electronic road service operated in association with Future World. This means it will be seen by thousands of computer enthusiasts who can send an instant response.

Classified advertisements will be accepted under the following conditions:

- This service is **EXCLUSIVELY** for the use of private readers. No trade ads will be allowed.
- To avoid encouraging software piracy, all ads will be carefully vetted before they are accepted.
- Ads can only be accepted on this form for a photocopy of it.
- There is no maximum for the number of words you include in your ad if there is insufficient room on the form continue on a separate sheet of paper.
- The cost is 20¢ per word with a minimum of 10 words.
- We **GARANTEE** your ad will appear in the next available issue of *Also User*.

- [illegible]

- Atari 5200, 50+ games, phonemark, 8-track recorder, magazines, 3 joystick \$1700
- Atari 1300E Data recorder, magazines for sale, details Tel 02955 62258
- 800001, 800130 Recorder 1488 of software, lots of Atari Users for only £280 Tel 0800 621058
- 800041, 1980, 10798 Reploy's sampler, Dig + Draw II Atari Writer, Basic compiler, assembler, joystick, over 30 games Atari User, books, manuals + over 30 discs £288 (incl. postage) Tel 0273 821272 Coda
- 800001, to 800005 upgraded £28 + £2.00 P&P 5% Mail tax, 1st Author Service

- Seamster D09 742.**  
 • **COOGL, 1918 cassette cover** £150 worth of software £150 no others. Tel 0252 56420 (Paul)  
 • **Ator-Louis, 37 Unicom and other magazines for sale** £10 to £1000 2 George Rd, Raleigh Kentford, CM20 3PG  
 • **Asian software, Action and Action Toolkit £20, MacW65 £15, Windows Text, Word Processor £16, Night Mail, Macrom Paintball £16 Tel: 0254 02343**  
 • **Arari ROOGL, 10GB drive** 1918 Resources, 7000 parties, much better, look able online, magazines, games £15 a ea Tel 0633 563026 evenings  
 • **Cassette games all originals** Tel 0205 771050 ask for John

- **Atari 5200ST brand new** Hardware, response difference games disks (27) software, games (200+) Tel: 01-899 10211  
 ■ **WANTED: Atari** Must be original copy was available on US full scale elements Tel: 0800 303255 Games  
 ■ **ATARI 130XE, 5200** Recorder, Electronic software joystick + Games, from the old brand new collection and based. Offers Tel: 01-488 7838  
 ■ **WANTED: 1050 disk drive** any reasonable price acceptable Tel: Solina on 01 7996524  
 ■ **FOR SALE: Atari, Atari, Atari** W200, W200C, W200C + Software £100. Also brand new unused W200C. C/W newstock, unwanted, call 0200 Tel: 0200 5555

**Fill in  
now for  
the next  
issue**

					10 words (4.0 pts)
					10 words (4.0 pts)
					10 words (4.0 pts)
					10 words (4.0 pts)
					10 words (4.0 pts)
					10 words (4.0 pts)

I certify that my submission offered for sale is original and not a copy.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date submitted for C \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

POST TO: Alan Gray Institute, Suite 2000, FREEPORT, Massachusetts 02040-0000

# SOFTWARE *Solutions*

## Your programming problems solved by **ANDRÉ WILLEY**

Let's start off this month with a couple of questions from Carlos Jorge Batista, who unfortunately didn't provide his address:

‘I've been told that my 128000 hasn't got a voice synthesiser, but now I'm not so sure. My doubt occurred while playing the budget game *ET Phone Home*, and after I had collected all the pieces of the phone I heard him say "ET Phone Home" twice, and the game would proceed. Is there really a voice synthesiser incorporated in my Atari machine, and if so could you please tell me how I use it?

Secondly, is it possible to create more than two colours on a (blackish) screen by using machine code? I ask because I saw photo-line representations of Atari User of the title screen to *GhostBust*, and there appear to be about 16 colours on it.

I thought the only mode which allows 16 colours was *Graphics II*, but I'm sure that the *GhostBust* screen can't be using it because the picture seems too highly detailed.

Modes 7 and 16 - which give more detail - can only display four colours. Could you explain Atari these screens are created?

The single answer to the first part of your letter is that your information is quite correct: the Atari 8-bit series don't have a built-in speech synthesiser.

There was a period when Atari developed several new machines which contained extra chips to perform various tasks.

The 12000XL, which was never released in the UK, did have a speech synthesiser built into it. But the 1300XL

doesn't have one. However, it does contain a very powerful music and sound chip called *POKEY*, and this can be used to great effect in producing voice-like sounds.

What happens is the voice - or any other sound required - is first played into a microphone attached to the Atari's joystick port. Then some machine code software scans the incoming signal and records it as a series of digital numbers representing tiny fragments of the sound wave - in much the same way as a compact disc is created.

The quality of the final recording depends on the number of samples you make - the greater the number the closer to the original sound you get. A compact disc, for example, makes tens of thousands of samples every second and can thus reproduce the original sound very accurately.

The Atari can't work quite that fast, and even if it could you would use up the whole of your memory to store a single second of recorded sound.

So a compromise must be reached and a sample rate of perhaps a couple of thousand per second will have been used. Once a second has been captured in this way it can be replayed by the *POKEY* chip which uses the sampled data to create a digital version of the sound.

Obviously this requires some very complicated software, but you can buy an interface and the necessary programs from *3 Dot Systems*. It's called *Playby*, and you can use it to record, playback and even adjust real sounds made by your Atari.

Now on to the second part of your letter and multi-coloured graphic displays. This one is a little trickier as the programmers of the game have

selected and used some machine code tricksy to get more colours from a *Graphics 16* screen than you can normally obtain.

The first thing they did was to use a character screen, like *Graphics 16* but without the bits and bytes in the bottom, and convert the pixels into little blocks the size of a single character - a total of 40 blocks by 24 for the type of screen.

Each block was then converted into colour character information and stored just like an ordinary character set would be. When displayed side by side, they make up the picture once more - rather like putting a jigsaw puzzle back together.

This method has the advantage of allowing four main colours, plus the background one as opposed to the usual three plus background given by *Graphics 16*. They then use another machine code routine to create the amazing sparkling colour effect we all try will no doubt have seen used in other games.

So the answer to your question is really that you CAN'T get that many colours on a normal graphics screen - but it's amazing what a bit of in-tech cheating can do.

### String array problems

Really this month a problem from Mr R. Richards of Lower Sydenham in London.

‘I am in the process of writing a program which requires many names to be entered into memory. I am using a FOR-NEXT loop to enter

Back to Page 48 in

1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 26



**I WOULD LIKE TO make a complaint about your magazine. Why is it that you are never up to date with your software reviews?**

**In the June 1988 issue you only reviewed three games when there were at least 10 new ones worth reviewing?**

**Wasn't Atari reviewed in our Sports (Databyte) or in our Sci-Fi (Databyte) Special Run (Mid Run) Space Wars (Mid Run) Jingles (Kismet), Shooters (Typecast), Romp (Adventure), Fantasy (Adventure) and Dynamite (Mega)? Why not review more games for the readers and stop being lazy?** — *Adam Porter, Spelling, Leamington*

Well Adam, lets take a closer look at the games you mentioned. The two Databyte games are available in the UK but the latter two are not.

Special Run hasn't been completed by Red Hat and will be a few months before it shows up on the scene. The Newton game that you mentioned is for the ST only

## FIRST GET YOUR GAME...

and won't be coming out for 6 to 8 months. Romp has been written for the 800 Atari module but at the moment Atari don't make it more up about releasing it on the UK market. Fantasy isn't actually a game like a pro gaming structure designed for the ST and Amstrad CPC computers.

Kismet had I made it more up about bringing it out on test.

Now we move on to the interesting game you mentioned — Kismet. Typocast started the idea of bringing this game out over a year ago and now probably said it was going to appear.

David Croft head of software development at Tynesoft is very curious how you got to hear about

it. As we are in Atari Zone in the May 1988 issue of Atari Zone we took a look at Space Wars from Red Hat — why don't you be taking a peek at page 25?

## Hero has a flaw

I WAS very pleased with my first having avoided the computer crash in *Alexandra House*. But when I used the disc and plug the computer disappeared! Not logging on I thought was great I've done it. Then I realised it said "Error 405 No disc present" and my disc disappeared.

I was really upset as I was enjoying the game until that point. Please tell me what to do because I am utterly stuck. — *Kate Bell, Kyrstons, Bristol*

I'm sorry to disappoint you Kate but this particular game has a bug and you can't finish it. We've had rather a lot of complaints about it.

## Friendly Geordies

I RECENTLY bought *Whisper* by Richard 33 from Dynamite Software. Unfortunately I had some loading problems with it. As I was going to the Atari show at the Alexandra Palace I decided to take it with me and see what they would do about it. I took my questions asked they happily replaced it and I returned home very satisfied. However I had problems loading the copy as well. So I showed them on the Monday and by Wednesday of the same week they had sent me a

new working copy. I would just like to say thank you to Dynamite for your caring work and tell other readers of their attitude and professional attitude. — *G Jackson, Basing, London*

## A day well spent

I ENJOYED the Atari User show last April very much. Having to go to the bank way to travel to the Atari show. But I don't have a car. I have a car but I don't have a car. I have a car but I don't have a car. I have a car but I don't have a car.

Then came another short trip journey and then by the courtesy of the show organisers I was able to the first drive of the Alexandra House. It was a lovely day and I completed it with some superb pictures.

Please pass on my thanks and comments. — *G. Harvey, Prest, Tarncliffe, Leeds*

Thanks for the letter. We'll be you at the next Atari User show.

## Missing line in the mine

AFTER recently trying in the excellent *Miss Reader* program from the May 1988 issue of Atari User I found a missing line in the listing. Line 1000 reads

```
1000 GOTO 1000: GOTO 1000
1010 GOTO 1010: GOTO 1010
1020 GOTO 1020: GOTO 1020
```

However when you take a look at the listing there isn't a line 1000. Even though the program works perfectly I began to wonder if I was missing out on something.

So to give me peace of mind was there anything missing from the published listing? — *Jonathan Morris, Luton*

Don't worry Jonathan, the

Turn to Page 82

## ON THE CREST OF A WAVE

I WAS delighted to find the Dynamite program in the May 1988 issue of Atari User as I have been looking for such a review for some time.

After having to type it in twice, due to my clumsy pen, I got it working. It was at this point I decided I would like some pictures of my desktop cycles. As I

own a 1050 prototype I had to write the routine myself.

So for other owners of a 1050 here are the rough code. You need to make to the original program that will allow you to produce your own desktop cycles. — *Stephen Shephard, Chipping Norton, Oxford*

```
1000 GOTO 1000: GOTO 1000
1010 GOTO 1010: GOTO 1010
1020 GOTO 1020: GOTO 1020
1030 GOTO 1030: GOTO 1030
1040 GOTO 1040: GOTO 1040
1050 GOTO 1050: GOTO 1050
1060 GOTO 1060: GOTO 1060
1070 GOTO 1070: GOTO 1070
1080 GOTO 1080: GOTO 1080
1090 GOTO 1090: GOTO 1090
1100 GOTO 1100: GOTO 1100
1110 GOTO 1110: GOTO 1110
1120 GOTO 1120: GOTO 1120
1130 GOTO 1130: GOTO 1130
1140 GOTO 1140: GOTO 1140
1150 GOTO 1150: GOTO 1150
1160 GOTO 1160: GOTO 1160
1170 GOTO 1170: GOTO 1170
1180 GOTO 1180: GOTO 1180
1190 GOTO 1190: GOTO 1190
1200 GOTO 1200: GOTO 1200
1210 GOTO 1210: GOTO 1210
1220 GOTO 1220: GOTO 1220
1230 GOTO 1230: GOTO 1230
1240 GOTO 1240: GOTO 1240
1250 GOTO 1250: GOTO 1250
1260 GOTO 1260: GOTO 1260
1270 GOTO 1270: GOTO 1270
1280 GOTO 1280: GOTO 1280
1290 GOTO 1290: GOTO 1290
1300 GOTO 1300: GOTO 1300
1310 GOTO 1310: GOTO 1310
1320 GOTO 1320: GOTO 1320
1330 GOTO 1330: GOTO 1330
1340 GOTO 1340: GOTO 1340
1350 GOTO 1350: GOTO 1350
1360 GOTO 1360: GOTO 1360
1370 GOTO 1370: GOTO 1370
1380 GOTO 1380: GOTO 1380
1390 GOTO 1390: GOTO 1390
1400 GOTO 1400: GOTO 1400
1410 GOTO 1410: GOTO 1410
1420 GOTO 1420: GOTO 1420
1430 GOTO 1430: GOTO 1430
1440 GOTO 1440: GOTO 1440
1450 GOTO 1450: GOTO 1450
1460 GOTO 1460: GOTO 1460
1470 GOTO 1470: GOTO 1470
1480 GOTO 1480: GOTO 1480
1490 GOTO 1490: GOTO 1490
1500 GOTO 1500: GOTO 1500
```

```
1000 GOTO 1000: GOTO 1000
1010 GOTO 1010: GOTO 1010
1020 GOTO 1020: GOTO 1020
1030 GOTO 1030: GOTO 1030
1040 GOTO 1040: GOTO 1040
1050 GOTO 1050: GOTO 1050
1060 GOTO 1060: GOTO 1060
1070 GOTO 1070: GOTO 1070
1080 GOTO 1080: GOTO 1080
1090 GOTO 1090: GOTO 1090
1100 GOTO 1100: GOTO 1100
1110 GOTO 1110: GOTO 1110
1120 GOTO 1120: GOTO 1120
1130 GOTO 1130: GOTO 1130
1140 GOTO 1140: GOTO 1140
1150 GOTO 1150: GOTO 1150
1160 GOTO 1160: GOTO 1160
1170 GOTO 1170: GOTO 1170
1180 GOTO 1180: GOTO 1180
1190 GOTO 1190: GOTO 1190
1200 GOTO 1200: GOTO 1200
1210 GOTO 1210: GOTO 1210
1220 GOTO 1220: GOTO 1220
1230 GOTO 1230: GOTO 1230
1240 GOTO 1240: GOTO 1240
1250 GOTO 1250: GOTO 1250
1260 GOTO 1260: GOTO 1260
1270 GOTO 1270: GOTO 1270
1280 GOTO 1280: GOTO 1280
1290 GOTO 1290: GOTO 1290
1300 GOTO 1300: GOTO 1300
1310 GOTO 1310: GOTO 1310
1320 GOTO 1320: GOTO 1320
1330 GOTO 1330: GOTO 1330
1340 GOTO 1340: GOTO 1340
1350 GOTO 1350: GOTO 1350
1360 GOTO 1360: GOTO 1360
1370 GOTO 1370: GOTO 1370
1380 GOTO 1380: GOTO 1380
1390 GOTO 1390: GOTO 1390
1400 GOTO 1400: GOTO 1400
1410 GOTO 1410: GOTO 1410
1420 GOTO 1420: GOTO 1420
1430 GOTO 1430: GOTO 1430
1440 GOTO 1440: GOTO 1440
1450 GOTO 1450: GOTO 1450
1460 GOTO 1460: GOTO 1460
1470 GOTO 1470: GOTO 1470
1480 GOTO 1480: GOTO 1480
1490 GOTO 1490: GOTO 1490
1500 GOTO 1500: GOTO 1500
```



Two discs crammed  
with the most popular  
programs from your  
favourite magazine!

These two exciting compilations bring together some of the very best listings from the pages of *Speed* 1988.

Whether you like games or prefer more serious pursuits there's something here for you – and you can also learn a great deal from examining and modifying the Basic list.

### Ten of the Best Games

**Dropout Rate** = Total number of students who  
leave the system

**Chengdu** (Sichuan) - 100,000  
 Major rail station  
**Chongqing** - 100,000  
 Major rail station

**James Watson** - British biologist, co-discoverer of the structure of DNA, and author of the controversial book *The Double Helix*.

**Tip: Upgrade your printer.** The system without a color printer is a waste of money. If you want to print in color, you need a color printer. The system with a color printer is a waste of money. If you want to print in color, you need a color printer.

**Monday Night** - Google up all the money he has got in the match.

**Protein and Fruit Blend** - Helps maintain a healthy diet.

**Quick Death** — Quick round and effective. An old saying is that a quick death is a pleasant one.

1960-1961 - 1961 - 1962

**Product Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PROFIT** The amount that a legal property owner receives in earnings on their investment.

### Ten of the Best Utilities

**ValueError** - User provided invalid input

**Keywords:** child sexual abuse, child sexual exploitation, child sexual abuse, child sexual exploitation, child sexual abuse, child sexual exploitation

1.  $\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{4}$

Page 10

1990-1991

1990-1991

1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.

1. The first step is to identify the problem. This involves understanding the current situation and the goals that need to be achieved.

... ..

— *Continued*

1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.

1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.



**ONLY £4.95 each**

... at just \$1.95 each when you take out a new subscription to Atari User - or if you renew your existing subscription.

Remember from the game you died last of all. Now, as SCORPION rises, you're made it even better - with **RE** switching now around to test your mastery. Bounce up and down on the springs attempting to hit the many targets while avoiding the **Red** and **RE** only.

**TO ORDER PLEASE USE THE FORM ON PAGE 53**

# 10

fabulous  
programs  
from your  
favourite  
Atari 8 bit magazine!

Due to the tremendous success of the last *Ten of the Best* compilation we have compiled a new disc full of the most exciting games that have appeared in *Atari User* over recent issues.

There are stunning shoot-'em-ups, challenging simulations and thought provoking strategy games alike — and all for only ...

All this  
for just  
**£4.95**



Color Puzzle



Dem Treadle



Reversi



Light Gun Blaster

## Ten of the Best Games Volume II

**Colour Puzzle** — A mind-boggling brain bender devised to confuse and bewilder. Match the coloured squares in this version of the traditional sliding block puzzle.

**Dem Treadle** — Classic arcade fun puts you in command of a highly sophisticated military helicopter. Your mission: To protect the town of Floodville from ruin.

**Reversi** — Can you beat the computer in this advanced version of the classic Othello board game?

**Light Gun Blaster** — The first ever blaster for the Atari System. Blast the coloured squares to beat the clock using the light gun.

**Mini Runner** — Guide your underground exploration vehicle through increasingly difficult levels of meandering tunnels and dangerous obstacles.

**Breakin'** — Fast and furious arcade action in our version of the classic bat and ball game Breakout. Try your skill against the different bumper patterns and lava ghosts.

**Submarine Hunter** — Experience the thrill and nerve-ragging excitement of naval warfare as you hunt the oceans for enemy submarines.

**Tyranix of Tomorrow** — Can you save the world? Armed with your Super Hero tech bouncing buggy you are the last hope against the evil dictators.

**Clay Pipes Shooting** — Test your accuracy in our fast-action shooting game. How many birds can you bag today?

**Big** — Saloon gambling in the Wild West. Do you take on Mer of the maddest card players this side of Dodge City. There may be more at stake than just cards.

**TO ORDER PLEASE USE THE FORM ON PAGE 53**

## Protect your Atari .



with this luxury dust cover  
for your Atari XL or XE.  
It's made of clear, water-  
resistant vinyl and  
bound with strong cotton.  
**Only £3.95**

## ... and your Atari Users

A year's supply of Atari  
User can be kept in this  
handsome chocolate  
brown binder.  
**Only £4.95**



## Secure storage for your discs

The ideal storage  
medium for your  
5.25in discs

This luxury padded  
PVC boxes are  
strongly made to  
protect your valuable  
discs and can be packed  
flat when not in use.

Holds up to 60  
5.25in discs



**£4.95**

### Disc storage box

Holds up to 60 of 5.25" discs £4.95 ☐

### Dust cover

XL/XE £3.95 ☐  
XE/XL £3.95 ☐

Add £1 for Europe (see EuroChart)

### Atari User binder

£4.95 ☐

Add £1 for Europe (see EuroChart)

Sent to: **Deutsche Publications, Verlagsges.,**  
Munich, Germany 80111-170

Use money order if possible (10.00). Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

Order in any other of the ways or nights

Telephone Order: 0431 874041

Pay Direct  
100% in cash

Order by Money  
May 100% from 10.00 to 10.00

Order by "Credit Card"  
10.00 to 10.00

Don't forget to give your name, address and credit card number

[ Enclose in plain envelope with no sign ]

# ORDER FORM

Special prices if accompanied  
by an international air receipt

Valid to  
31.03.83

All prices include postage, packing and VAT  
(Germany orders shipped by Airmail)

(P) £ 1

### Annual subscription

UK, E & S	NEW	RENEWAL
Europe Incl. (incl. VAT)	1980	1980
Overseas (incl. VAT)	1980	1980
	1980	1980

Continues with:

FREE	NEW
Atari EuroCard	1980
Atari Data Bank	1980
Atari Storage Box	1980
Atari User Toolkit	1980
Atari User Toolkit	1980

### Back Issues

£1.00/£1.00  
£1.00/£1.00 & 1980  
£1.00/£1.00

January 1981	1980	1980
February 1981	1980	1980
March 1981	1980	1980

### Fun of the Real (page 11 and 12)

Game	1980	1980
Game 1980	1980	1980
Game 1980	1980	1980

Add £1 for Europe (see EuroChart)

### Junior

Atari 1980 £1.00 £1.00 £1.00 ☐

### Atari Data Bank (page 10)

1980	1980
1980	1980

Add £1 for Europe (see EuroChart)

### Atari EuroCard (page 10)

Add £1 for Europe (see EuroChart) £1.00 ☐

### Starquake (page 7)

Type	1980	1980
Disc	1980	1980

Add £1 for Europe (see EuroChart)

### Atari User Toolkit (page 10)

Type	1980	1980
Disc	1980	1980

Add £1 for Europe (see EuroChart)

### Mini Office II (page 10)

Disc 1980 £1.00 £1.00 ☐

Add £1 for Europe (see EuroChart)

Customers in Europe: send us your order to your bank.  
Customers in USA: send us your order to your bank.

100 100 100 100

TOTAL

Payment, please indicate method (P)

☐ International credit card (see the regulations)

☐ No. 100 100 100 100

☐ Unpaid invoice (see regulations for Deutsche Publications Ltd.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_

For: \_\_\_\_\_



# NEW LOW PRICE ST!

## ST PRICE INCREASE

Due to a worldwide shortage in memory chips, prices of many computers have gone up. From April 1986, the new ST range is also likely to be affected. For details of any price increases, please consult the coupon below for our price brochure.



## ONLY FROM SILICA

Atari ST is the most powerful and versatile computer ever designed. It's the only one that can do everything you need it to do. It's the only one that can do everything you need it to do. It's the only one that can do everything you need it to do.

**ENTER: STARTER KIT - Only From Silica**  
This is the perfect starter kit for anyone who wants to get into the world of Atari ST. It includes everything you need to get started, including the Atari ST computer, a keyboard, a mouse, and a software package.

**DEDICATED SERVICE - Only From Silica**  
Atari ST is a powerful and versatile computer. It's the only one that can do everything you need it to do. It's the only one that can do everything you need it to do. It's the only one that can do everything you need it to do.

**THE FULL STOCK RANGE - Only From Silica**  
Atari ST is the most powerful and versatile computer ever designed. It's the only one that can do everything you need it to do. It's the only one that can do everything you need it to do. It's the only one that can do everything you need it to do.

**AFTER SALES SUPPORT - Only From Silica**  
Atari ST is a powerful and versatile computer. It's the only one that can do everything you need it to do. It's the only one that can do everything you need it to do. It's the only one that can do everything you need it to do.

**FREE CATALOGUES - Only From Silica**  
Atari ST is a powerful and versatile computer. It's the only one that can do everything you need it to do. It's the only one that can do everything you need it to do. It's the only one that can do everything you need it to do.

**FREE OVERNIGHT DELIVERY - From Silica**  
Atari ST is a powerful and versatile computer. It's the only one that can do everything you need it to do. It's the only one that can do everything you need it to do. It's the only one that can do everything you need it to do.

**PRICE MATCH - Only From Silica**  
Atari ST is a powerful and versatile computer. It's the only one that can do everything you need it to do. It's the only one that can do everything you need it to do. It's the only one that can do everything you need it to do.

# £260

+VAT=£299

## SO MUCH FOR SO LITTLE!

Atari ST is the most powerful and versatile computer ever designed. It's the only one that can do everything you need it to do. It's the only one that can do everything you need it to do. It's the only one that can do everything you need it to do.

**ATARI 520ST-FM NOW ONLY £260 (+VAT £299)**

Atari ST is the most powerful and versatile computer ever designed. It's the only one that can do everything you need it to do. It's the only one that can do everything you need it to do. It's the only one that can do everything you need it to do.



The Silica Shop Ltd, Dept AT/ST/520, 1-4 The News Authority Road, Silica, Rye, East Sussex TN31 1JL

**PLEASE SEND ME FREE LITERATURE ON THE ATARI ST**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Postcard \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me literature on the Atari ST. I am interested in the Atari ST. I am interested in the Atari ST. I am interested in the Atari ST.

**WIDESPREAD** 01-628 1210  
**LONDON** 01-628 4888  
**LONDON** 01-628 1214

